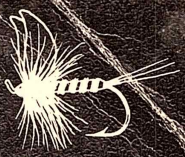
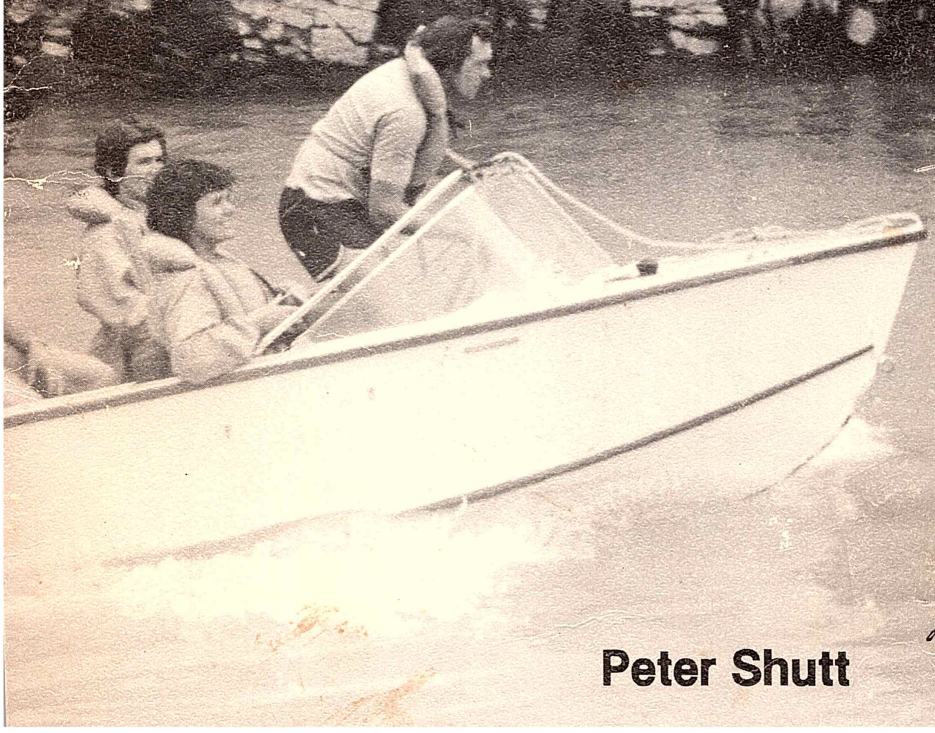
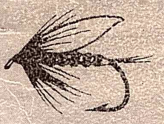
NEW ZEALAND



Fishing in the Central South Island





Peter Shutt

Office of the
Minister of Tourism
Wellington, New Zealand

Foreword

Since most of New Zealand's angling literature concentrates on the great lakes of the central North Island, a book on fishing the central South Island is long overdue.

Angling is a sport which can be enjoyed by anyone at any age, and is rapidly acquiring new devotees throughout New Zealand.

It has long been recognised that angling is a most important segment of our tourist industry which itself is based on a very wide variety of outdoor activities.

Our fresh water fisheries net millions of dollars for the tourist industry every year. The value of this book is that it should enable anglers to reach new areas armed with useful practical information gained by the author over many years fishing in the central South Island. I am sure this publication will assist considerably in ensuring that the Aorangi Region receives the recognition it deserves for the quality and diversity of its fishing.

As Minister of Tourism and as M.P. for Ashburton, it gives me great pleasure to lend my support to this book, and to wish all readers 'tight lines'.

Bob Talboys

Front Cover: Anglers jetboat through the picture-book waters of the Rakaia Gorge.

Fishing in the Central South Island

Peter Shutt

1st Edition — 23rd September, 1983
2nd Edition — 7th October, 1983

Published by the author, 88 Pages Road, Timaru, New Zealand

Printed by Pope Print, 34 Bank Street, Timaru, New Zealand

Angling regulations within this publication have been compiled with the utmost care, and are believed to be accurate at the time of publication, but no responsibility can be taken for errors that might have escaped our attention. Acclimatisation regulations are subject to change from time to time, and this publication is not intended to supercede the official licence information.

. . . *Briefly for the Visitor*

ANGLER'S PARADISE

The central South Island is an angler's paradise. From almost anywhere in the region, the angler has access to surf, river, or lake fishing.

Anglers in the area enjoy fishing that would be hard to find elsewhere. Back country anglers have as a backdrop, some of the most magnificent mountain scenery available anywhere in the world, while the rushing torrents of the snow-fed streams make for exciting fishing conditions.

WORLD CLASS SALMON

The rivers that issue from deep in the alps continue to the coast, and provide salmon fishing that draws both local and tourist anglers alike.

The main runs of salmon in the Aorangi Region rivers occur in the Rakaia, Rangitata, Opihi and Waitaki rivers. Most seasons produce individual catches of Quinnat Salmon ranging from 14 to 40 pound, and occasionally larger.

River mouth fishing is the prime location until salmon start the main run upstream . . . something that is undetermined by calendar dates, and subject to innumerable considerations.

Upstream fishing is productive once the runs start (as early as the end of November, and as late as the end of January), with fish more usually being caught in the early mornings. Daybreak is one of the times favoured by anglers.

Tides also play an important part as to when salmon are caught. The Opihi river is somewhat dependent on the tide and mouth conditions for salmon to enter the river, while the Rakaia, Rangitata and Waitaki rivers, with heavier water flows, encourage the salmon to enter at almost any point of the tide.

Fishing the heavier water of the Rakaia, Rangitata or Waitaki rivers calls for sturdier rods and reels, and in the higher reaches the line strength can easily become important when pulling off large rocks.

The Zed spinner and silver slice are recognised as among the best types of hardware with which to fish, while lure fishermen will use only the larger size of feathered fly.

Smoked salmon is a firm favourite of many anglers, and some fish shops will provide a smoking service.

TROUT ALL AROUND

Trout anglers have the additional choice of locations such as the well stocked lakes that abound in the area, or alternatively they might choose to fish the smaller streams such as the Hinds, Temuka, Waihi, Pareora, Tengawai, Waihao, Maerewhenua, or Hakataramea rivers.

All these waters are pleasant fishing, midst sweeping willow trees and natural beauty.

Entering most of our lakes are crystal clear streams of chilled water, and these offer the angler robust trout that can really fight. Caught on light line, these fish provide thrills for the angler prepared to walk a little, and the majestic ruggedness of the landscape is conducive to an 'all's right with the world' feeling.

Both Rainbow and Brown Trout congregate around the entrance of rivers into the back country lakes, and angling from shore or an anchored boat is great fun.

Lake Benmore offers a choice of mouth fishing as the Tekapo river and Ohau Canal cascade into the lake within a few metres of each other. This is at the Haldon Arm end of the lake, while at the western corner, and in a sheltered locality, the Ahuriri river joins the lake.

Downstream are two fine fishing lakes in Lake Aviemore and Lake Waitaki. Both these lakes can fish well early in the season, after which the angling pressure drops until the holiday period, and visitors are reasonably assured of a peaceful visit. Early morning or early evening fishing is widely accepted as the most productive time on these waters,but dry fly anglers polaroiding the edge get good fish during a midday hatch.

Lake Alexandrina and McGregor are always popular, with many anglers agreeing this to be some of the best water in New Zealand.

Also within a couple of hours drive is the Dobson river at the head of Lake Ohau, and the MacAuley river at the head of Lake Tekapo, and while less pressured by anglers, both rivers offer fine sport as the season progresses.

Only slightly less visited are the inland lakes of Mid Canterbury, Lakes Clearwater, Heron, Camp and Emma etc. . . . all of which are reliable sources of angling delight.

These waters are but a few of the many enjoyable fishing spots in the region — a region rich in angling pleasure and scenic beauty.

Briefly . . . for the novice fly angler

Many novice fly anglers see fly casting as a complexity that should be avoided if one is to enjoy fishing. Nothing could be further from the truth, for it is the progression through various facets of fishing that enables an angler to select the most satisfying aspect, and nurture it into a sport; a hobby, and above all else, a pleasure.

It is unimportant that an angler finally selects one fishing method ahead of another. Natural bait, threadline, dry fly, wet fly and lure fishing all have their place, and it is the appreciation of this fact that enables a successful angler to choose his method to suit the water.

It would be wrong for the uninitiated to continue to feel fly fishing is complex. It need not be so.

There is no mystery about fly casting — once a few basic principles are understood.

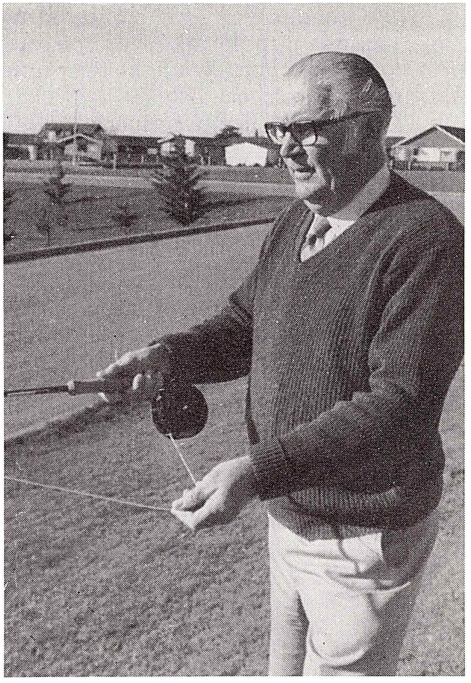
A novice angler does not need exceptional timing or strength to master the art, nor spend endless hours practising. The secret lies in ignoring the term 'fly casting', and considering instead the mechanics of the cast. The fly is simply an appendage to the line, and it is the line that one actually casts. The fly simply follows the line! It is the weight of line that causes the rod to bend, and when the rod is 'waved' back and forth, the bend increases relative to the weight of line extended from the rod tip. The bent rod provides power to drive the line out in front of the angler, accelerated by the forward movement of the forearm.

It takes only a few minutes to absorb the principles, and the rest is practice. Not 'practice' as in music, but rather 'practice' out on the river . . . fishing! Follow these easy steps to fly fishing, and you will find control and accuracy come naturally as you fish.

First, Take Up Slack.

Holding the rod in your right hand, stretch out about 7-8 metres of line from the rod tip. Holding the line firm with the left hand (immediately in front of reel), take up the slack and start backwards cast with rod at about the 2 o'clock position.

(right)



Aim High, and Pickup Smartly.

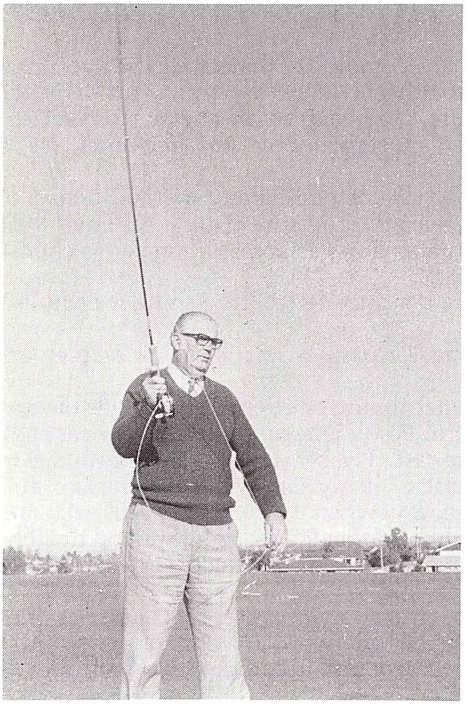
Lifting the rod smartly will raise the line (and lure) into the air, throwing it high and to the rear. The line will quickly loop and flatten out behind you. Stop the rod at 12 o'clock.

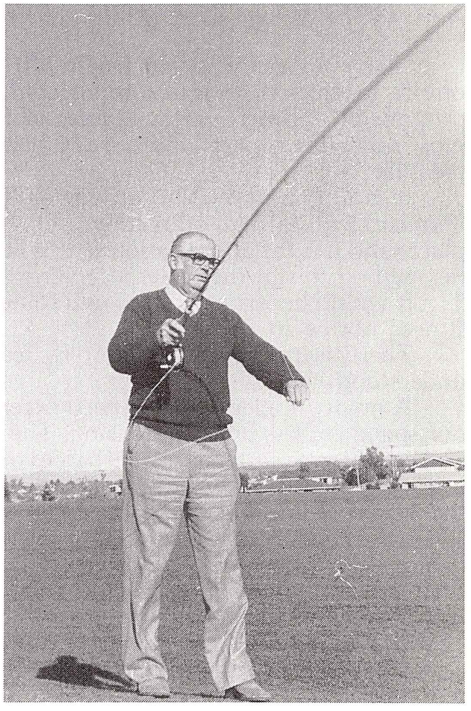
(bottom right)

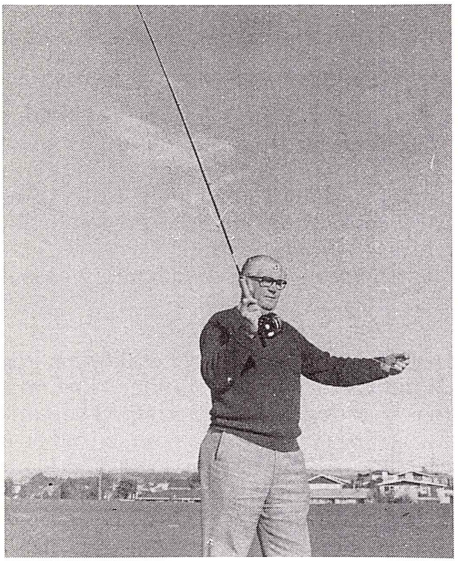
Wait for the 'Drag'.

The rod will drift back from the 12 o'clock position as the line flattens. You will feel a 'drag' at the rod tip, and on the line held in your left hand.

(bottom left)







Forward Cast.

Immediately the backward cast has flattened behind you, start the forward movement with your right forearm, maintaining hold of line in the left hand, and forcing the rod to bend with the resistance. Stop the rod at 2 o'clock. Now release the resistance by releasing the left hand. The line will shoot through the left hand, and out through the rings as the rod is allowed to drift down to about the 3 o'clock position. As the lure touches the water, gather up any slack line into the left hand, and prepare for another cast after the lure has been allowed to work in the river current.

(left)

The Retrieve.

There are different methods of controlling your fly line while fishing. The usual figure-of-eight retrieve coils the line in the left hand, but one should remember the line is prone to twisting on the next cast.

Alternatively, one can strip the line and let it fall to the ground, or coil the line in large loops. Perhaps the least used method, yet one of the more effective, is to wrap the line around the left hand in much the same way as one would wind thread on a shaft. It may look unprofessional, but it has certain advantages.

Firstly it allows for a continuous retrieve instead of a stop-go operation, and it maintains excellent line control for the next cast. Twitch the rod tip gently from time to time. This imparts 'life' to the lure movement. The angler can release several coils from the left hand by simply lifting the thumb on the forward cast. More importantly, it provides a troublefree reservoir for retrieved line, and avoids having line around ones feet — an important consideration when a fish takes.

The dedicated slow nymph fisherman usually bunches line in a figure-eight in his left hand, and his pattern of retrieve is practically continuous, but not so the wet fly angler fighting fast water. His retrieve is faster, and often the line is dropped in bunches at his feet. This is fatal, for a take at this time would almost certainly result in the fish being lost as the angler untangles line from his feet and the rod rings. Except in really fast water, both anglers would have benefited from a 'wrap' retrieve, as contact with the fly is maintained throughout, and the angler more ready to let out controlled line.

The purpose of a fishing fly is to imitate trout feed. For example, the quick dash of a 'bully' or creepy movement of nymph or lavae, or the quick rise of a beetle. Then there is the aimless drifting of the water snail. The secret of the retrieve is therefore related to the understanding one has of these creatures, the way they move, and the way to best copy them.

It is a fallacy to assume trout will be provoked into taking a fly. Salmon certainly do, but trout are more selective, and more often frightened off by an unfamiliar flashy fly.

So why retrieve the fly at all? River anglers must retrieve in empathy with water conditions if they are to stay in contact with the fly as it progresses through eddies and currents.

The still water angler often considers the water to be just that, but in fact the fly is subject to delicate drift patterns as caused by wind on the surface or streams flowing into the lake. Still water is seldom still, and even the dry fly angler must maintain line control.

Whichever way the fly is retrieved, one thing is vital. Immediately a fish takes on the retrieve, the line must be trapped against the rod or held firm by the left hand, or else the fish will be struck with loose line and the hook not set.

Therefore, always take the line over the forefinger of the casting hand, where it can be squeezed against the rod butt as soon as the take is felt.

Speed Variation.

The speed of retrieve varies with the water conditions, but in general terms, the novice angler retrieves too fast. A nymph cast out to the end of a standard line on a calm lake should take as long as 2-3 minutes to retrieve back to the rod tip. The same applies to a dry fly, although one should not set this as a standard, but rather as a guide. Obviously the fly cast upon a calm lake and into the beat of a cruising trout can survive several minutes before being swamped. Providing the fly does not get swamped, and the angler keeps in contact with the fly, there is no limit to retrieve time.

Vary the retrieve from slow to fast, and several steps in between, until a successful pattern is established for the water. The choice is yours — there is no hard and fast way to success.

Presentation.

Accelerating the line forward on to the water gets the fly out where it can be used, but experience is the best teacher regarding the delicate presentation of this cast.

Surrounding shrubbery, type of water, and wind conditions all combine to necessitate a formula for each cast, but given that enough space is available for unrestricted back and forward casting, the angler will quickly learn to slow the forward cast just short of completion, allowing the line to slow and drop on to the water rather than rifle into the water at a long angle.

Having said that however, one should not flail the water seeking an excellent cast and miss the opportunity to fish out a poor cast that might well entice a fish. Unless the line is hopelessly tangled when landing on the water, it is best to fish out the cast. Repeated flogging of the water will only scare the trout.

PRODUCTIVE FISHING PERIODS

A clear river fished with nymph in the rain when the barometric pressure is low and the river rising, is possibly one of the most productive fishing periods.

Novice anglers are well advised to stay on daytime fishing until they have full control over their equipment. Threadline outfits, and level-wind outfits require additional care unless the angler can confidently drop his hardware on a precise area of water.

This becomes more important if one is fishing a relatively slow and shallow stream where the angler needs to be in precise control to avoid hitting bottom, dragging weed, or getting a line-tangle at the reel.

Fly anglers will find it much easier to fish at night, because the equipment is designed for precise placement of the fly regardless of the lighting conditions. A fly angler, streamfishing at night can control the depth at which he fishes by using the appropriate fly-line, and dressing the cast. Any angler contemplating a night on the

river, is wise to view the water during daylight hours, and be familiar with the position of snags, shallow water, and the availability of adequate space behind for back-casting.

It is seldom that a night is so dark that one cannot see something of the environment, but the water conditions are certainly difficult to read after dark. In general terms, the day angler can 'see' and be 'seen' (by the fish), and one should therefore use any available cover to hide the approach to the water, and use the lightest practical gear.

A fly angler approaching a still pool would probably consider nymph fishing in the early part of the season so that he can cast upstream and float the nymph back towards him. The fish would be facing upstream, and therefore less likely to be scared by the angler. The same angler approaching from the other end of the pool would immediately be visable to the fish, and the chances of success would be reduced somewhat.

However, should the pool be reasonably rippled by the inflow of water, the angler might very well choose to approach from upstream, and cast either a fly or hardware down and across the stream so that it can be retrieved deep through the rougher water. In this case the angler fishes deep to attract any fish that are resting beneath the current.

The upstream nymph fisherman will probably rely heavily on his polaroid glasses. Polaroid glasses are essential for the angler wanting to get a clear view into the water. However, not all glasses are identical, and the angler should choose with care. Glasses are not so essential for downstream anglers, as the ripple on the water usually reduces their effectiveness from this direction . . . the angler usually fishing further out to where he hopes the fish cannot see him.

One way to get the best use of 'cover' and 'glasses' is to fish into the sun. Rather than frighten fish by casting a thick fly-line across clear water, the angle might very well choose to float his wet-line downstream with the current, and put his expertise into working the fly back to his feet.

A fly angler at night is able to use heavier trace without frightening trout, and the major concern of the angler would be to avoid wading, which would tend to frighten fish feeding near the bank, while a second consideration would be to check that no wind-knots are tied in the trace.

Wind-knots indicate the angler might be casting a loose trace on the backcast, and it is wise to occasionally check the barb on the fly is still intact. Tying a line to the trace is never easy after dark. It may be something one considers can be done with the eyes shut, but a good torch helps. The torch is also valuable in locating the best path from the car to the stream.

A dry fly fished at night is less likely to frighten a fish if it drags in the current. For some reason, this is relatively unimportant on a dark night, whereas in daylight, the fish would immediately detect the deceit, and race for cover. 'Flashy' tinsel fly patterns are of no great value at night, as the trout at night sees only the black shape silhouetted against the sky or streambed. Unless there is moonlight sufficient to reflect on the tinsel, the embelishment is wasted. A large dry fly is often more effective than a smaller one at night, where again the shape is more important than the colour.

At night, fish often come alongside the bank to feed, getting insects as they fall from the overhanging grass. It is for this reason the angler should fish right up to the bank. Lake anglers face the same conditions regarding night fishing, but the tendency to walk out a shallow spit often enables them to fish a circular pattern of water without moving.

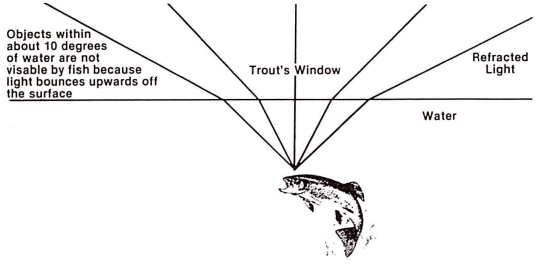
Timing the strike is more difficult at night, as there is generally little to indicate the first movement of the fish. A change in the water pattern might be the first

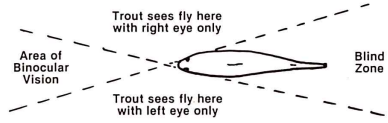
indication, or the 'slurp' of the water as a good fish takes the fly from the surface. In either case the angler must strike immediately, otherwise the opportunity is lost.

FISH ARE USUALLY ALERT, SO STALK THEM QUIETLY

Stalking a trout 'on all fours' is not as silly as one might think. I do not mean the angler should crawl the length of the stream in search of trout, but rather that, having found a fish, he should take whatever steps are necessary to get into a suitable position from which to cast without being seen.

The clearer the water the more likely the fish will be alert to movement, either to the side, or forward, or above his position. The refraction of light through water bends the trout's viewing area in much the same way as illustrated. There is however a difference of angle as the fish nears the surface of the water, and this should be considered at all times.


Objects within about 10 degrees of water are not visable by fish because light bounces upwards off the surface
Trout's Window
Refracted Light
Water



As shown in the diagrams, the fish does have blind spots in his vision, but in many cases the angler will be in view before realising the trout is alert to his presence. Once startled, the trout will usually avoid feed until the conditions are deemed to be safe again.

It is, therefore, advisable for the angler to rest the fish for at least 10 minutes, and then return, making as much use as possible of any natural cover that exists. And if that requires a bit of crawling, it might still be worthwhile. A word of caution, however. Don't snag your waders.

It is interesting to watch any group of sports people, but none more so than anglers. Have you ever noticed how many anglers really stand out for the bright colour of their clothing? . . . or how much some like to wade in the water, even when it is not necessary to do so? I cannot think of anything more likely to frighten a fish that the 'clump clump' of the angler's boots on the stream bed, or the white hat or shirt that stands out against the natural scenery.

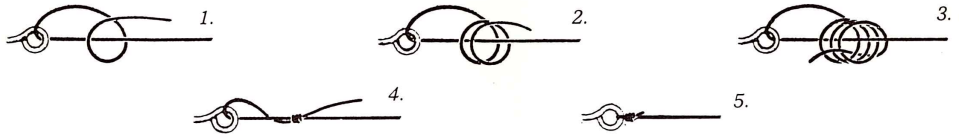
These anglers make fishing more difficult than necessary, both for themselves and others. The effect on other anglers is that scared fish are much more difficult (if not impossible) to catch, and the 'clump clump' transmitted through the water will scare fish for quite an area, and other anglers will not appreciate the conditions.

. . . *Knots*

No fishing booklet would be complete without a selection of knots that effectively attach hook to line, or line to backing.

CENTAURI KNOT EFFECTIVE

Although less common than most knots that are used to tie a hook to line, the Centauri knot is certainly effective. For my money, it is the safest knot, and as such, is probably the best.



It is very easily tied and even with cold fingers or in the half-dark light of dawn or dusk, it is simple enough to tie without having to verify under torch light, or be pulled at nine-tenths strength just to be certain it will not slip.

The easy way to tie this knot is to place the hook between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand with the hookeye facing right. Then simply create the loops by passing the line within the loops each time.

The finishing tuck is easy to control while the line is still wrapped around the finger, and when you slide the line off the finger, the knot is ready to pull tight. Remember to wet the line before tightening, as this reduces friction and avoids damaging the strength of the knot.

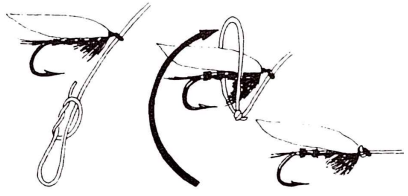
The origin of the knot is somewhat obscure, and it was only recently I read of the knot being attributed to an angler on Lord Howe Island (off New South Wales), Centauri being the name of his boat. It may not be the most common knot, but if you are having problems keeping the line and hook together, try it.

TURLE KNOT

Knots are the 'doing' or 'undoing' of many an angler. There can be few anglers that have never lost a fish through a poorly tied knot . . . a knot that slipped when it should not or did not slip tight against the eye of the hook when it was intended to.

It is often suggested the 'turle knot' is as good as any when one is tying a trace to the hook, and perhaps it is.

It is certainly a good knot for tying on a dry fly.



THE BARREL KNOT

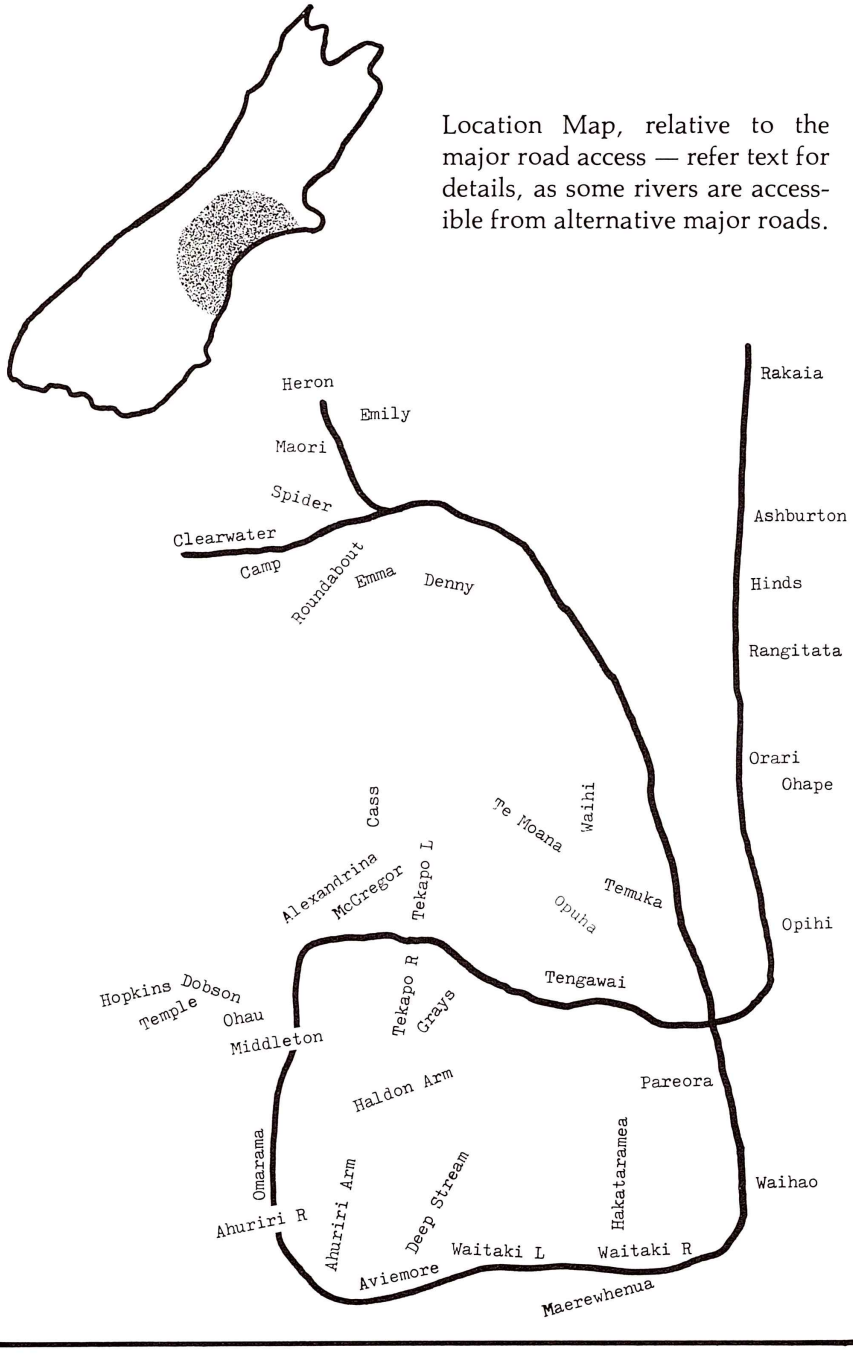
The barrel knot is one of the most common for joining nylon lines of different thicknesses, as is the case with tapered casts.

Obviously, a true tapered cast purchased in a sports shop will be free from any knots, but for the 'home-made' enthusiast the barrel knot is essential.

It takes a reasonably strong, even pull to tighten the knot, and care should be taken not to trim excess nylon from the ends of each strand until the knot has been tested for strength.

The same knot is sometimes referred to as a 'blood knot', although there is a fine difference as I see it. However, either is effective if tied properly.

This is a true barrel knot. Note the nylon is looped evenly on both sides of the centre space.



Location Map, relative to the major road access — refer text for details, as some rivers are accessible from alternative major roads.

Rakaia River

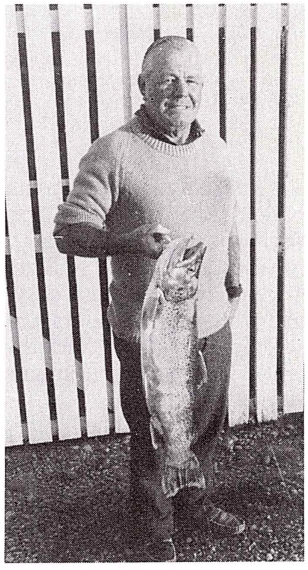
Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 150-250 cumecs. (Over 100 km fishable river).
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April and restricted fishing Saturday after Queen's Birthday to 31st August. No fishing above white marker poles opposite Lake Coleridge Power Station after 29th February.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: At mouth northside.
Suggested Tackle: TROUT: Threadline at river mouth to State Highway No. 1. 2.5-3.5kg monofiliment line and small silver or bronze 'Glimmy' during daylight, or slightly larger dark ticer as evening progresses. Upstream from State Highway No. 1 the deeper pools fish better using a small chrome Zed Spinner or Toby.
SALMON: Small colorado spoon with colour flash, and 9kg breaking strain line. Above the main road bridge, salmon anglers might find heavier line more value as it will enable the hardware to be pulled from larger rocks. In the gorge, and above, the line should be heavier again, as this water will pummel the line against the rocky edges. Alternative bait could be a small Norwich Raised Eye style spoon, with red stone inset, and patterned surface.
LURE FISHING: 2.5-3.5kg breaking strain trace, size 4-8 lures (Hopes Silvery, Mrs Simpson Yellow) for trout, and large lures such as Yellow Dorothy or Grey Ghost for salmon.

Visiting anglers entering the Aorangi region from the North, can be excused for misinterpreting this river by simply considering the length of the main road bridge. This is the longest bridge of its kind in New Zealand, spanning 1.6km from bank to bank.

However, the water that occasionally fills this immense channel, is more often confined to braided flows that produce excellent trout and Quinnat salmon catches. Just below the main road bridge, the riverbed splits around an enormous island known as Great Island, which extends to within a few hundred metres of the coast. At this point, the water reunites to form a large lagoon area prior to exiting into the surf.

The Rakaia river mouth area is renowned for its trout and salmon fishing, although anglers might find access difficult. Often the river splits into two, and sometimes three mouths, and this makes it essential to obtain boat access if one wants to fish the middle mouth. Foot access to either north or south mouthes, is certainly possible from the appropriate side, but can involve a walk of up to 1½ hours.

Kawahai often visit the river mouth, and play inside the lagoon. These are good sport on light tackle, and always worthy of a few casts if everything else is slow.



This 4.545kg trout was taken by Mr Ray Bain while fishing for salmon in the Rakaia river competition earlier this year. The competition, held in March, confirmed the fine trout population this water supports.

The inaugural Salmon fishing contest on the Rakaia river can boast few bags to beat this effort. The only successful woman angler at the contest, Mrs Shirley Anderson poses with her husband, Mr George Anderson (right), and son Gary. The eight salmon taken by the family were all captured near the river mouth, but failed to win the competition.

The fragmented streams that flow along the north side of Great Island make excellent dry fly water during the summer, and threadlines can be assured of good sport when sufficient water is flowing. In times of a general low flow in the river, the more suitable water will generallly be found along the southern edge of the island. A jet boat makes access easy to the numerous holes upstream, and will save a lot of hard walking. Anglers entering from the north shore will notice road access is extremely limited, and therefore appreciate that most of the water between the lagoon and State Highway No. 1 bridge is fished by anglers with boat or 4-wheel drive access.

Access from the south side is much easier, although often across farmland. It is important the gates be left as they are found, and stock is not frightened unnecessarily.

Dobbies Ford, which is accessed from the south side, approximately 16km downstream of Rakaia Township, has always been a popular spot for trout anglers, although in recent times the water behind the Rakaia Golf Links has produced better fish. Trout, around 4½kg have been taken there in the past season, but generally, the trout average about 1½kg.

Most of the water between the golf links and the main road bridge, is braided in a series of fast ripples, and reasonably deep pools. Above the bridge the water tends to thicken into fewer braids. These become extremely popular with salmon anglers during the season. Interspersed in these waters are a number of deep pools that are

heavily fished for salmon, but one should not overlook the side braids that often contain short dropoffs, where salmon lie-up and rest.

Access from the north side is by well defined river roads and tracks, while the south side access is restricted by the large cliff along this bank. Few access roads exist on the south side, but the cliff top makes an excellent observation post from which to view the water, and scan for vehicles on the river . . . a sure sign that a good hole is nearby. Unfortunately, this area of the river is sometimes scoured by floodwaters, and the less stable holes tend to move around a bit. For this reason, anglers should scan for vehicles, and save time looking for a hole that has moved since last season.

A little further upstream, the Rakaia river is supplemented by water channeled across from the Rangitata river by way of the Rangitata River Diversion Race. Excellent salmon fishing is frequently found in the water just downstream of the Highbank Power Station. Access is from the south side.

It is a matter of conjecture whether salmon smolts from the Rangitata river find their way through the diversion race and exit to sea via the Rakaia river, but it is a fact that in some years the returning salmon congregate near the power station tailrace, and many good bags are recorded. Limited access is available from either north or south sides until the angler gets further upstream and meets the Upper Rakaia road bridges on State Highway No. 72.

This is probably the most spectacular bridge system on any of the district's rivers. The Rakaia Gorge restricts the river flow and releases it in a surging torrent under these bridges, where it then starts its braided pattern across the Canterbury Plains. This much photographed spot marks the entrance to the gorge, which extends some 8km upstream before the hills flatten to enable anglers on foot to reach good fishing water. Jet boat anglers will enthuse about the scenery through the gorge, but anglers on foot need to drive up the Glenariffe road, (South side of river), which turns off State Highway No. 72 about 1½km south of the bridges.

It is a mistake to take the road upstream on the north side, as access is severly limited by the steep river bank along this edge, although the desire to fish a hole from the north side might encourage anglers to take this hard way into the river.

Excellent trout and salmon fishing is available from the gorge to the Glenariffe Salmon Hatchery (MAF Research Station), but anglers should carefully check their licence, as fishing above the white poles opposite the Lake Coleridge Power Station is restricted from the end of February.

Good fishing might result from a visit to other streams in this area, but a considerable amount of local knowledge is required if one is to avoid fruitless delays.

An unusual feature of this river is the wide variety of bird life along its travels. Foremost in the minds of conservationists will be the Wry Billed Plover. This bird exists in small numbers, and because of its preference for low lying habitat, is endangered by irregular river flows etc.

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Tagged Fish: *Tagging trout or salmon is a time consuming and costly operation performed for naught if anglers fail to advise their Acclimatisation Society of the appropriate details when one is caught. Tagged trout are usually identifiable by the plastic marker near the dorsal fin, while salmon are fin clipped (Adipose fin removed), to alert the angler that a small wire tag is imbedded in the head of the fish.*
Consult your fishing licence for details regarding tagged trout. Salmon heads should be kept in deep freeze until they can be handed into a Head Depot (about 25 depots in this area). MAF Fisheries Research Division conduct draws worth several hundred dollars prize money for tagged heads handed into depots.

Ashburton River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 3-5 cumecs at State Highway No. 1.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April, and Saturday after Queen's Birthday to 31st August.
Bait: All legal bait. Natural bait below Coles Cutting. Primary school children can use bait below State Highway No. 1 bridge.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Turkey Sedge or Kakahi Queen.
Favoured Wet Fly: Hares Ear or Mrs Simpson Yellow.
Favoured Hardware: Silver Devon or Silver Glimmy (7g).
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg (trout). 9kg (salmon).

Driving south on State Highway No. 1, the angler would next find the Ashburton river looks inviting, but alas much of this water has been channeled off for irrigation in recent years, and the river mouth frequently blocks for long periods. Salmon fishing has deteriorated as a result, and trout fishing is only a fraction of its former glory. Today, the better trout fishing is at the river mouth, and immediate area, where one would hope to catch a sea-run fish when conditions are suitable. No fishing is permitted above the junction with Taylors Stream, after 30th March, but this area is popular in early season.

This river has the potential to return to its former status as one of the better trout and salmon waters in the district, but requires supplementation from a source other than adjacent rivers. For they too are becoming afflicted with the circumstances that have lead to the death of the Ashburton river.

If lake water could be added to the Ashburton river, anglers, farmers and tourists would benefit substantially.

Hinds River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx .5 cumec.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly, except that primary school school children may use all lawful baits above Lynnford Crossing.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all, being not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Blue Dun.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Tipped Governor or Red Spinner.
Favoured Line Strength: .9kg.

The gentle water of the Hinds river is excellent fly fishing, and in the lower reaches (below Lynnford Crossing), large numbers of trout are regularly captured. Many will have to be released, but the occasional fish exceeds the limit size, and should make a reasonable meal. 'Fish light' is the order of the day, and preferably use barbless hooks. This will make the sport more competitive.

Most fishing will be directly up or downstream, there being little space to cast cross-stream, as willow trees line this water. The gravel bed is an excellent breeding ground. During the season, anglers might come across the occasional salmon making its way upstream.

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Still-water fishing requires some 'action' on the fly if trout are to be deceived.

Rangitata River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 32 cumecs (over 75km fishable water).
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April, and State Highway No. 1 to river mouth has extended season first Saturday after Queen's Birthday to 31st August.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: During the months of March and April, no person shall fish for acclimatised fish in Lynn Creek or its tributaries; or the Rangitata river and its tributaries above white marker poles approx 1.6km downstream of Forest Creek; or in the Rangitata Gorge area between Boundary Creek junction and the west end of the gorge, as designated by white marker poles on river bank. 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Lower Reaches:
Favoured Lure: Grey Ghost or Ginger Mick.
Favoured Salmon Hardware: Chrome Zed Spinner or Small Colorado.
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5-3.5kg (trout). 9kg (salmon).
Upstream:
Favoured Dry Fly: Hare's Ear or March Brown.
Favoured Trout Lure: Yellow Rabbit or Mrs Simpson (yellow).
Favoured Trout Hardware: Small (Heavy) Zed Spinner or Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 3.5kg (trout). 11kg (salmon).

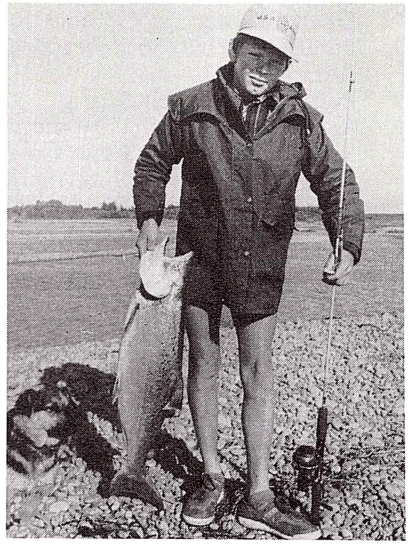
Further south on State Highway No. 1, the angler will meet the Rangitata river, where both trout and Quinnat salmon are caught in reasonable numbers.

Rangitata Mouth 1983

The river mouth can be reached from either side, with reasonable access along the beach, or to upstream waters. The lagoon area of this river changes little, and the river mouth usually exits in a single flow.

Traditional fishing holes between the river mouth and the main road bridge have been substantially changed through heavy floods in the past couple of seasons, and instead of 4-5 good holes, this stretch of water now contains several smaller holes that are somewhat restrictive on angler numbers participating at any one time. However, the large number of short sharp drop-offs in this braided water provides excellent resting places for salmon, and should not be overlooked.

On most maps, this river is shown to have a large island downstream of State Highway No. 1, but in reality, water almost never flows in the southern channel. Hence access is practical from the Rangitata Island road (south side of main river), or from several access points on the north side. Beware of the steep bank just above the return of the irrigation race on the north side, (about 4km above river mouth). Some anglers prefer to fish for salmon just below this irrigation inflow, where water flow is greater, and access is easier.



Mr Steven de Joux used a small chrome Zed Spinner to capture this salmon at the Rangitata river mouth.

Most of the access roads on both sides of this river end within reasonable walking distance of good fishing water, but if one wants to be reasonably certain of finding a hole, I would suggest the area within a two kilometre radius of State Highway No. 1 is as good as any. There are usually good pools near the power pylons, (downstream), and more just above the railway bridge, (upstream).

Between State Highways No. 1 and 72, the river is more accessible from the north bank, but due to the usually low flow in summer, the water is easily crossed to fish from either side.

For anglers prepared to search out holes in this area, a good starting place is near the power pylons that span the river, about midway between the two highways. And if one wants to drive to a hole, it is almost certain one can do so by visiting the river imediately above the Arundel bridge. Here the water has been channeled into a main stream, so that flood flows are aimed between the long earth works that reach out to the bridge. For this reason, the confined water-way usually produces a small but excellent salmon hole at its upstream junction. The shingle road up the north bank offers restricted access through paddocks, and in many places is blocked by the steep cliff that extends along several kilometres of river.

At Peel Forest, the river is best approached from the south side, as the water tends to follow this bank after being pushed across from the continuing high cliff on the north side. Access from the camping ground area is easy, as a walking track starts from near the ablution block. It is immediately above this area that the river flattens into braids after leaving the large boulders of the gorge. Many good bags of both salmon and trout have been taken between Peel Forest Camping ground and the Lynn Stream junction. Just a little further upstream the water is more lively, and trout that much more difficult to handle in the faster water.

Opposite Chapman's Creek junction, the north bank softens to a reasonable access in selected places, and fishing from here to the Rangitata River Diversion Race at Klondyke can be worthwhile. The access from the south side is progressively further off the road as one nears Boundary stream, and permission to cross farm lands is suggested.

Access to the gorge involves a lot of 'leg work', and they need to be fit legs. In some places it is dangerous, with the river winding around blind bluffs that prohibit foot travel. But boat transport is not the answer either. In at least one place, the river drops several feet in a sudden chasm that would destroy any boat.

But not to worry. The river has a short gorge of about 9km, and although road access stops at Klondyke for north bank anglers, the south bank is well provided by the shingle road that follows the river from just above the gorge (Whiterock Station), to roads end at Mesopotamia Station.

A basic difference between the Rangitata river and Rakaia river is the kind of boulders that one tends to fish over or around. The larger boulders are more jagged in the Rangitata river, and for that reason, jet boating is not quite so popular. Even the smallest stones are prone to sharp edges, so anglers snagging the bottom in the Rangitata river are advised to disentangle the line with care.

Fishing beyond the Mesopotamia homestead is the relm of four-wheel-drive vehicles or jet boat access. Salmon are most often too black to eat when they reach this area, so sport fishing is usually confined to the trout that inhabit the deeper pools or feed along the edge.

Orari River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 2-3 cumecs at Badhams Road.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Nymph: Peacock and Copper or Pheasant Tail.
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Kakahi Queen.
Favoured Wet Fly: Stonefly or Hare's Ear.
Favoured Hardware: Small Chrome Glimmy or Small Bronze Glimmy.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg (trout).

It is several decades since the Orari river flowed in a continuous stream from hills to sea, but in those days, it was one of the many streams in the district that provided fine sport for the careful angler. Today, the water is underground in the vital middle reaches, and few fish are taken above this area. Anglers fishing the final 2km above the mouth, are most likely to be rewarded with small but energetic trout in the season. On occasions the angler might land a fine sea-run trout, while later in the season, Quinnat salmon will enter the tiny lagoon, or provide sport in the surf.

The secret of fishing this river (just above the lagoon) is to fish a small dry fly or nymph, and if no success, change to the smallest fly in the box. In the clear water, even a size 16 pattern is suspect, and the trout scare easily. Trout average about ½kg.

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The smaller the fly the better the chance of deception. In unfamiliar water, start with the smallest practical pattern, and after changing patterns, increase fly size only if still having no success.

Ohape Creek

Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial Fly only.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Nymph: Pheasant Tail or Ginger Quill.
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Greenwell Light.
Favoured Wet Fly: Hardy's Favourite or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg.

The Ohape creek consists of three streams that join to provide good dry fly sport in the lower reaches, or the angler can search out one of the numerous tiny pools in the meandering upper reaches and fish with size 16 nymph at the change of light.

This is one stream that continually crosses private property, but permission is rarely withheld from those who ask. Trout average about ½kg.

Waihi River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 1-2 cumecs.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Greenwell (light) or Coch-y-Bondhu.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Tipped Governor or Stonefly.
Favoured Hardware: Small Chrome Slice or Chrome Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg.

The Waihi river is a longer waterway, but is often troubled by drought. The best fishing is below the affected area, and anglers should consider barren any water above the 'Coach Road' (between Geraldine and Orari).

Although small, the fish taken above the Woolscour at Winchester are tasty. Algae growth on the streambed below Winchester makes wading dangerous at times, although in summer months, a pair of old sandshoes and shorts will make the wading easier. The shallow ripples between pools allow the water to heat during strong summer sunlight, so one should concentrate on fishing only the deeper pools where trout up to ½kg stay in cool shade.

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Ultra Violet light harms nylon line. Keep line/gumboots/nylon jackets etc. away from sunlight when not in use. Such items are best kept in a dark cupboard during the off season.

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Boat fishing without a net is more regular than most care to admit. Avoid excess strain on the leader . . . take your handkerchief and wet it thoroughly, and when the trout is played out, use the open handkerchief to get a good grasp on the fish with your free hand . . . and if you do lose the fish, the smell will remain in the handkerchief for weeks to remind you of the 'one that got away'. Next time take a net!

Te Moana River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx .8 cumec.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Nymph: Pheasant Tail or Hare and Copper.
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Wickham's Fancy.
Favoured Wet Fly: Peveril o' the Peak or Coachman.
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Glimmy or Small Chrome Slice.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg.

This river originates in the foothills near Four Peaks, and the crystal clear water cascades through narrow rock formations before becoming a shingle stream as it trickles down through Pleasant Valley. 'Trickle' is the operative word, as at times of drought, this river drys in the middle reaches. But fishing is often good in the early part of the season if one fishes near the gorge, or immediately above the junction with the Waihi river, using light gear, and considerable stealth. Trout average about ½kg.

Temuka River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 2-3 cumecs.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Nymph: Pheasant Tail or Grey Nymph.
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Greenwell (light).
Favoured Wet Fly: Hare's Ear or Hardy's Favourite.
Favoured Hardware: Small Chrome Slice or Small Chrome Glimmy.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg.

The junction of the Waihi river and Te Moana river creates the start of one of the more under-rated small streams in the district.

The Temuka river has always produced a good number of fish for the season, although in keeping with most water, has deteriorated over recent years. The angler should expect some lively sport using 1-1½kg line, and size 16 fly, or nymph.

The water below State Highway No. 1 is particularly good around Christmas time, and evening rises are well worth waiting for. Trout average about ½kg.

Opihi River

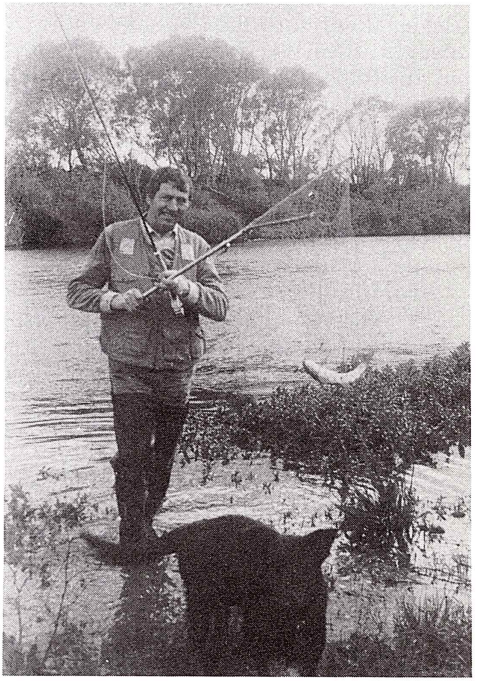
Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 4-8 cumecs at Grassybanks.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon.
Lower Reaches:
Favoured Lure: Grey Ghost or Ginger Mick.

Favoured Salmon Hardware: Zed Spinner or Small Colorado.
Favoured Line Strength: 1½-2kg (trout). 9kg (salmon).
Upstream:
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Greenwell (light).
Favoured Wet Fly: Small Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Thompsons Moth.
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Glimmy or Bronze Glimmy.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg (trout).

This waterway was once the focal point of trout fishing in South Canterbury, and it might regain some of that fame when the river is suplemented by either Lake Tekapo water or a retention dam in the gorge.

In the meantime, anglers are treated to excellent trout fishing in the early part of the season, when the river mouth is usually open. As the summer progresses, the middle reaches dry up, or flows are too little to maintain an open river mouth.

Last season (1982-83), saw increased fortune for salmon anglers, and at times, the Opihi produced more Quinnat salmon catches per day than either the Rangitata or Rakaia rivers. Apart from small freshes in the river, the flow was generally insufficient to allow many of the spawning fish access to the upper reaches, and several salmon caught later in the season were quite dark, indicating they might have been playing around the river mouth for a time.



Three minutes after leaving the car, this Christchurch angler netted his first trout from the Opihi river.

Usually, the summer does not effect the river too badly above Pleasant Point township. Drawoff of irrigation and city water supplies take place near Pleasant Point, thereby reducing the river flow during drought conditions. Above Pleasant Point, the water remains fishable, although trout frighten easily in the clear water. It is therefore better to fish early morning or late evening, using a small slice or fly, and 1½-2kg line.

Mid-day fishing for trout is almost impossible unless one uses 1-2kg line, and size 16 dry fly or nymph.

Three main junctions effect this waterway. The first is the much fished 'junction hole' at the confluence with the Temuka river. Popular with trout anglers in early season, this hole takes on added interest when salmon come through. The second, immediately above Pleasant Point, is the junction with the Tengawai river, which is frequently clear when the main stream is carrying colour. For this reason, many anglers fish the junction area, taking advantage of the clear inlet water as it combines with Opihi water.

The confluence of the Opihi and Opuha rivers, split the water roughly in two, with perhaps a slightly stronger flow in the Opuha.

Trout fishing in the Opihi Gorge is usually productive, but access is diffucult once one leaves the car at either Rockwood (east end), or at Gorge Road (west end).

Opuha River

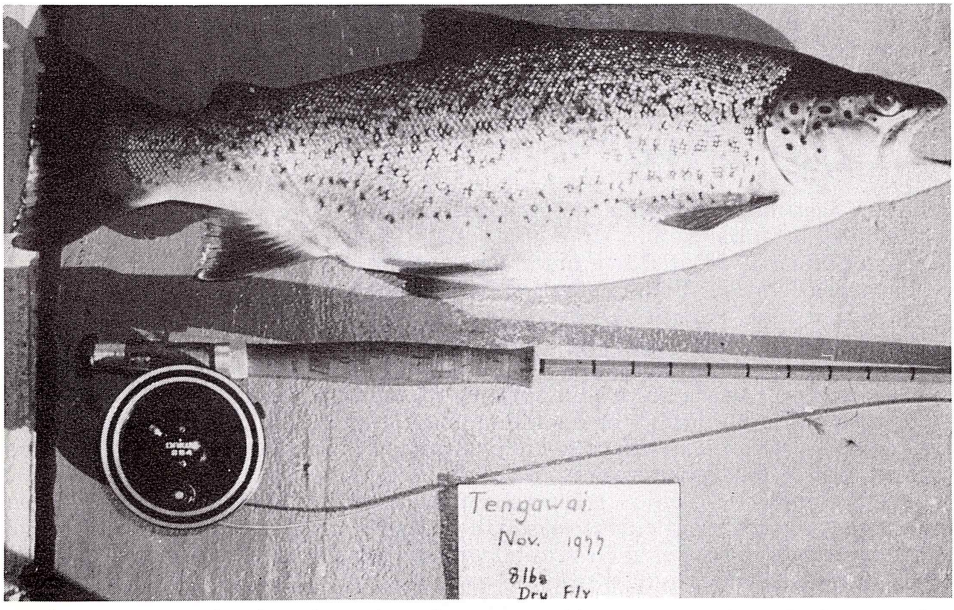
Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 3-5 cumecs.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 10 trout maximum. 4 salmon maximum. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Twilight Beauty or Tups Indispensible.
Favoured Wet Fly: Hare's Ear or Thompsons Moth.
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Glimmy or Bronze Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 1-2.5kg (trout).

Good trout fishing is available up to the Skipton Bridge on State Highway No. 79, and some of the limestone rimmed pools just above the Opihi junction have produced 2-3kg trout in recent years. Most other areas of this waterway produces trout of about ½kg. The walking gets tougher if one wants to fish in the gorge, but in mid-summer it is quite pleasant to wade upstream between the huge boulder bluffs. The fishing will not be great, but once in a while the area returns a good bag of fighting fish.

The Opuha river, stretches back through a small but steep gorge before opening out into the wide Fairlie Basin. It is in this region that a dam site might well appear in coming years.

Tengawai River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 1 cumec.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial Fly only.



The Tengawai river has always been a happy hunting ground for Mr Eric Davidson. This fine 8 pound trout was taken on the dry fly while fishing near Cave township.

Restrictions: 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Nymph: Olive or Pheasant Tail.
Favoured Dry Fly: Kakahi Queen or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Wet Fly: Peveril o'the Peak or Coachman.
Favoured Line Strength: .9kg.

This is 'Fly only' water, and although thin, is often productive when other rivers in the district are coloured. The Tengawai river clears quickly, and good bags are to be taken if fished early in the season or after a fresh.

Like so many other local streams, the trout scare easily, and are usually found in the deeper water or under shade. The trick is to fish early evening, watching for the feeding fish, and then close in with light line as they continue feeding after dark.

Come in downstream of a selected pool, and try to take trout on a short cast, turning him downstream as soon as possible to avoid disturbing other fish feeding in the adjacent water. Fishing a dropper is an advantage, as it will keep the line more visible. Sight and sound are essential to catch these trout. At the first sign of hesitation as the line drifts back towards you, lift the rod tip and set the hook.

Good fishing extends back to the headwaters of this stream, and each year, someone brings in a 1½-2kg trout from water that would look too thin for a cockabully. Trout average about ½kg.

Through the Pass . . .

If the angler continues westwards through Burkes Pass, he enters the rich trout waters of the Mackenzie Basin.

Until recent years, the Tekapo river, and Ohau river, were rated as world class fisheries. Hydro electricity development has however changed both rivers substantially.

Tekapo River

Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Palmer or March Brown.
Favoured Lure: Parson's Glory or Mrs Simpson (red).
Favoured Hardware: Speckled Green Toby or Striped Daffy.
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

The Tekapo river is but a thin apology to its former glory, but still produces 2-3, or even 4kg trout during the middle summer months. The main supply of water from the Forks stream and Grays river combining to form good fishing water in the lower reaches of the Tekapo river.

The fly angler will enjoy the excellent water above Lake Benmore, (Haldon Arm). The walk upstream covers reasonably large pools and dry fly ripples, while further upstream, the water splits around willow trees to provide crystal clear pools that encourage the wet fly or threadline angler.

Access from Tekapo township is down the west side of this river, where a well formed MOW road splits to follow both banks. Approaching from the east side of this river the access is more difficult unless one drives the shingle road for some 40km to

the Haldon Arm of Lake Benmore. On the way, the angler might spot the rough access tracks that lead into Grays river and the lower Tekapo river, but one should be aware these tracks can be rough, and some walking will be necessary.

Haldon Arm (Lake Benmore)

Open Season: 1st October to 31st August.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: Motor boats permitted, but no fishing within 200m of river mouth or shore angler, or in designated boat harbour. 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Hare's Ear or March Brown.
Favoured Lure: Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Fuzzy Wuzzy (at night).
Favoured Hardware: Green Toby or Zed Spinner (black).
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

The boat launching ramp at Haldon Arm is excellent for small boats up to trailer Cabin Cruiser size, but on rare occassions the lake level is too low for easy launching. The angler visiting the area for the first time should check water levels with the New Zealand Electricity Department before starting the journey.

Lower lake levels will not make any difference to the shore based angler, as the shallow flats extending out into the lake are well defined with firm shingle ribs that will support the wading angler, and allow good casting water. If the lake is low, one will often find good fishing in the trenches that extend into the lake at the old Ohau river mouth; Tekapo river mouth; Stoney creek mouth, and the deep channel that extends off Black Forest homestead.

In times of a high lake level, the edge between Haldon Boat Harbour, and the Tekapo river mouth usually produces some good Brown trout. They cruise the channels that dot this edge, and are often close to shore at night.

Down-lake, below the Haldon Boat Harbour, the bank provides excellent spotting, and it is possible to pick up a good Rainbow trout anywhere between the Harbour and Black Forest homestead.

Grays River

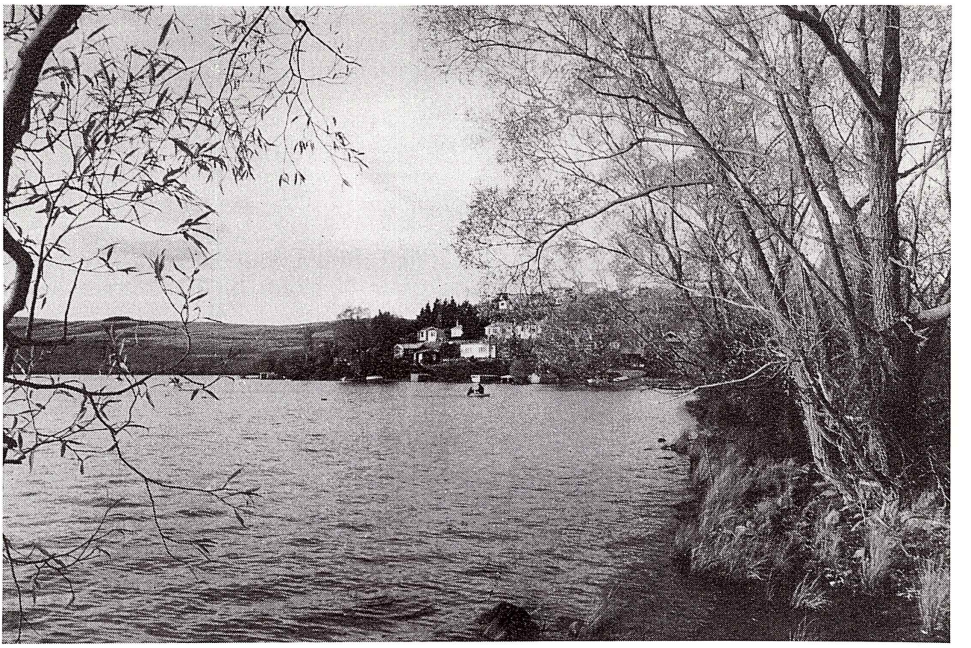
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Restrictions: 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Greenwells (light) or Blue Dun.
Favoured Wet Fly: Thompson's Moth or Red Spinner.
Favoured Hardware: Bronze Daffy or Bronze Glimmy.
Favoured Line Strength: .9kg.

This water has always been popular with dry fly anglers prepared to carefully fish the narrow pools that distinguish this river from most others in the district.

The nearest road access is off State Highway No. 8, turning at Dog Kennel Corner, and continuing on the shingle road past the junction with the Mackenzie Pass road, as if to travel to Haldon Arm of Lake Benmore.

Rough tracks provide access across farm paddocks to the right, and permission to cross is not usually withheld. Stock in some paddocks might make access difficult, so one would benefit from advice from the nearest homestead.

Like the Tekapo river, this water is best fished around Christmas, when dry fly fishing produces the best fun, although wet dry fishing after dark will often raise a deep feeding trout.



The tranquility of Lake Alexandrina is captured by this early evening photograph. A gentle ripple slaps the shore, and Brown trout cruise beneath the overhanging willow branches. The dull overcast sky signifies 'good fishing tonight'.

Lake Alexandrina

Open Season: First Saturday November to 30th April.
Bait: All legal bait.
Restrictions: Only boats propelled solely by oars or paddles allowed on lake. Trolling permitted. 14 Acclimatised fish in all. Not more than 10 trout or 4 salmon. 25cm minimum length. No person shall fish from an unmoored boat within 100m of shore.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Love's Lure.
Favoured Lure: Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Make-em-takem.
Favoured Hardware: Small Black Slice or Black Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

Tekapo township is adjacent to three well known fishing lakes, with the best known being Lake Alexandrina. This has been one of the better producing lakes in the South Island, with many anglers claiming it to be the best. In recent years the bags have been reduced, but excellent fishing is still obtainable, as evidenced by the large number of anglers that frequent this area.

The level of water in Lake Alexandrina rarely fluctuates, and fishing can be confined to reasonably predictable areas. At the south end, shallow flats provide excellent sport for boat anglers who usually lure-fish the bottom with a slow retreive or troll across the shallow depressions where brown trout hide. Shore angling in this area is popular, particular in the early morning or late evening, when trout are frequently taken within a few metres of the lake edge. The overhanging willow trees provide excellent cover for the Brown trout that cruise close in shore to catch insects that fall from branches.

Road access is along the north-eastern side of the lake, but except for direct access at the south end, outlet and north hut areas, the road is some way from the lake edge, and requires a considerable walk over rolling hills.

The outlet area is the popular camping spot for visitors, but facilities are not exceptional. Shore anglers will appreciate the network of good walking tracks around the lake, and should fish the points and bays toward the south end, or walk a similar distance in the other direction, towards North Point. Along the way, several good casting spots will be evident between the willow trees, and these should not be overlooked.

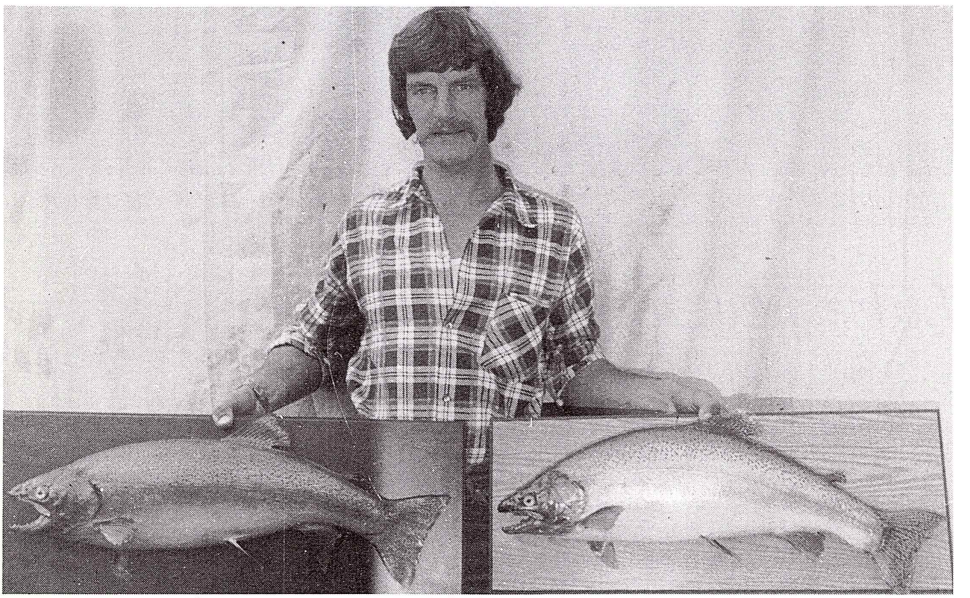
If the angler stalks the edge carefully, remaining concealed as much as possible, it is often possible to cast a short line to cruising trout.

North Point is very near the Island which dominates this end of the lake, and is a popular fishing area for boat anglers. Rainbow trout inhabit the deeper parts of the lake off the island, and on a clear day the angler can carefully position his boat near these holes which are perhaps 12.5 metres deep, and surrounded by weed areas. Elsewhere the lake is deeper (18.2 metres), but its natural mud bottom is barren of weed. In water depths of about 6 metres and less, the snails become evident, and are a prime source of trout feed.

The armada of row boats that congregate off the island in early morning will soon identify the location of these holes.

Directly across the lake is an area known as 'the pothole', which has the distinction of being one of the most productive spots for a shore angler to cast a fly or small glimmy. It is easily reached by a gentle walk from where the car should be left at the north end huts. It is a mistake to try and drive too close, as the track becomes rough and unsuitable for car access.

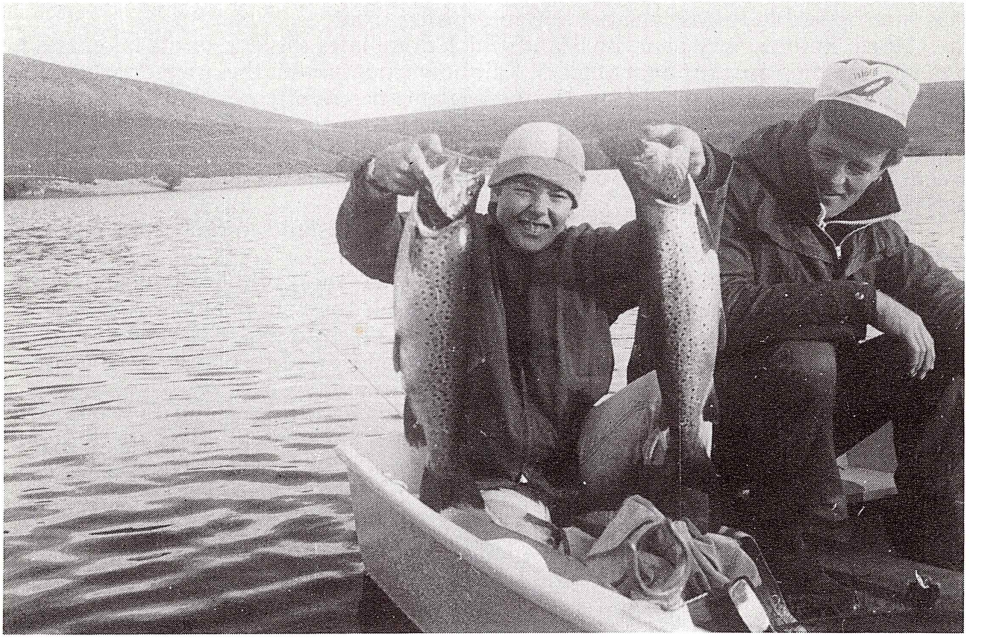
The lake edge near the 'pothole' is subject to undercutting, and care is required if one is to avoid accidental drenching. Experienced anglers will take care to avoid



Mr John Put, from 'The Wolds' Station in the Mackenzie Country, displays his two trophy fish. The 9lb 14oz Rainbow trout caught on a black wobbler off the island in Lake Alexandrina in February 1979 (left), was joined at Christmas 1982 by the magnificent 8lb 12oz Rainbow taken on similar fishing gear at North Point.

walking in any one of the several grass covered holes that pocket the lake edge, as they are unsound footing in an area which is truly afloat. For this reason, I do not recommend a night visit to the 'pothole' unless accompaied by other anglers who are familiar with the area, and who carry a torch to light the way.

Foot access to the shallows around the north edge of the lake can also be dangerous during the hours of darkness, as many outcrops of swampgrass are afloat, and are therefore unsound footing. The fishing however, is good, and late in the season produces some of the better catches.



Mr Lyndon Sim is rightly proud of these two trout, taken early morning on Lake McGregor. Angling companion, Mr Frank Spillane, contemplates the next trip.

Lake McGregor

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial Fly only.
Restrictions: Only boats propelled solely by oars or paddles allowed on lake. Fishing from unmoored boat is prohibited. 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Love's Lure.
Favoured Lure: Mrs Simpson (green) or Hamill's Killer.
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

Adjacent to Lake Alexandrina is Lake McGregor. They are joined by the outlet stream which is protected water. Lake McGregor is a small but valuable fishery that drains into nearby Lake Tekapo, but being the smallest of these three lakes, Lake McGregor is oftimes overlooked during a first visit to the area. The 'hotspots' are at the mouth of the stream that enters from Lake Alexandrina; along the weed bed at the northwestern corner, or along the water prior to the exit towards Lake Tekapo.

Lake Tekapo

Open Season: 1st October to 31st August.
Restrictions: 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Love's Lure.
Favoured Wet Fly: Mrs Simpson (yellow or green) or Parson's Glory.
Favoured Hardware: Small Black Zed Spinner or Black Slice.
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

Fishing in Lake Tekapo has become more popular in recent years. It is only in the last decade or so that trout have been regularly taken by visitors. Some local fishermen were aware of its potential, but most anglers preferred the nearby lakes. Some say that trout escaping from Lake Alexandrina has resulted in better fishing in Lake Tekapo.

The best fishing is near the mouth of the Cass river (northwestern side of the lake), or at the head of the lake, where the Macaulay and Godley rivers meet.

In the latter instance, the angler will find the lake edge heavily ribbed by incoming river water, and some of these shallow streams can be very productive.

Road access to the head of the lake is excellent, but some walking is to be expected, as the inflowing rivers change channels from time to time.

Looking back to Tekapo township, Mt. John (right), restricts foot access to the deep water along this shore. Boat anglers claim success when trolling deep, but better fishing is often found along the shore adjacent to the village.

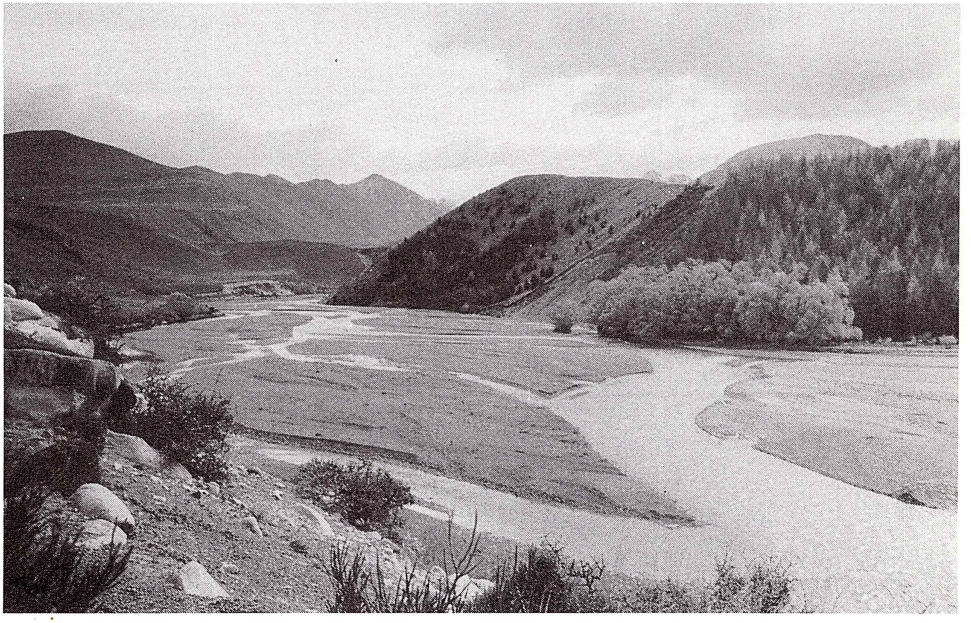
Cass River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 6-9 cumecs.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Restrictions: 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Twilight Beauty or Wickham's Fancy.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Spinner or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Toby or Glimmy.
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

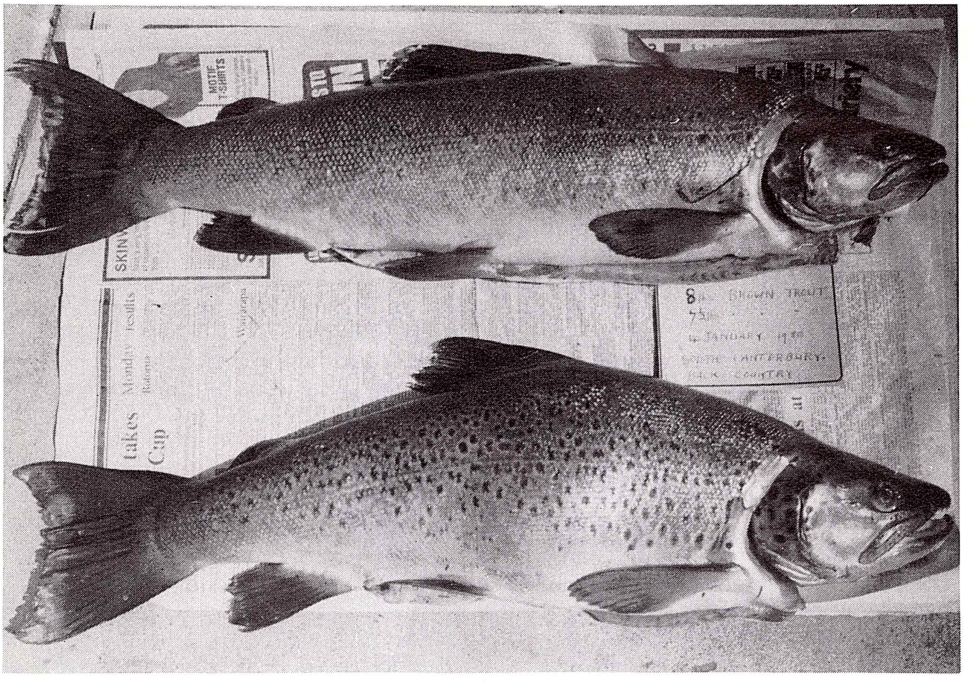
The Cass river drains a significant catchment west of Lake Tekapo, and usually contains good trout. Access is from the road skirting between Lakes McGregor and Tekapo, with road access terminating at the road bridge a short distance above the turnoff into the north end of Lake Alexandrina.

Upstream from the road bridge, the river bed turns hard right and in some places the water is restricted by steep hillside or large rocky outcrops. Above this, the river widens out to become excellent trout water, in a series of fast ripples and pools. Rainbow trout take with gusto in these waters, but are easily scared. It pays to observe fish movement from a high vantage point before thrashing the water.

Because of the walking involved, (and some of it will be over rough ground), it is often more enjoyable to walk 3-4km upstream (above the road bridge), before starting fishing. Dry fly fishing upstream will take the angler as far as time permits, and a quick change to wet fly gear will enable selected water to be fished on the way back. The Cass river is not the sort of water one would enjoy if time were limited to an hour or so. It takes some effort to get far enough upstream to fish the better water, and enjoy panoramic views in absolute peace and quiet.



In spring the scenery is magnificent. In autumn the tints are incredible. But the trout are there through much of the season, and for this reason, anglers that once fish the Cass river, regularly return.



These 8 pound and 7½ pound beauties came from a small tarn adjacent to Lake Tekapo, and there are more where they came from!

Lake Pukaki

Recently, the raising of Lake Pukaki has rekindled the arguments about fish being in this water. The older generation of anglers, (and back country musterers), recall Quinnat salmon reaching the headwaters of Lake Pukaki in the days before power stations blocked their access. Those same anglers suggest that the offspring might well have remained in the lake as land-locked salmon. The same is suggested of the migratory trout that were also trapped when the dams were built.

Whatever the truth of the matter, there is some evidence of irregular catches near inlet streams, with a couple of good catches reported last season. However, the pattern would need to improve before many anglers will journey to the remote corners of this lake in search of a trophy fish, such as was taken by Mr J. K. Miller recently. His beautifully mounted trophy fish measured 31 inches length, 18 inches girth, and weighed 13 pound.

* * * * * *

Fish deep rather than shallow . . . keep the wet fly as near the bottom as possible. That's where the larger trout usually are . . . If you can't raise 'em, get down to 'em!

* * * * * *

When the leader refuses to sink while fishing a wet fly, pull the leader firmly between a fold in your rubber gumboots. The rubber friction removes residue from leader and allows it to sink better. It also takes the curl out of obstinate leaders.

Hydro Canals

Open Season: All year round for Pukaki-Ohau canals. Tekapo-Pukaki canal open 1st October to 31st August.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: No boating. 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Wet Fly: Mrs Simpson (yellow).
Favoured Hardware: Bronze Toby or Black Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 1.5kg (trout).

Threadline fishing seems the most popular approach to this water, which runs through controlled canals between Lakes Tekapo, Pukaki, and Ohau.

Small silver Glimmy will take Rainbow trout, although the trout size is not yet competitive with other water in the region. However, the growth of Rainbows over the past two seasons suggests better fishing in seasons to come.

Road access follows each canal, and there is plenty of off verge parking.

One favourite method of fishing this water is to have the rod setup for dry fly fishing, and drive along the road until rising trout are spotted. Fish for them, and when they are either caught or 'spooked', continue up the road to the next rising trout.

Lake Ohau

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: Motorboats permitted, but trolling prohibited within 200m of shore angler or Dobson rivermouth. 10 Acclimatised fish in all, of which not more than 4 may be salmon.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Red Tipped Governor or Black Gnat.
Favoured Lure: Mrs Simpson (red) or Hairy Dog (red).
Favoured Hardware: Toby (black) or Zed Spinnner (black).
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

Access to the shore of Lake Ohau is possible from either side, and the angler can expect both Brown and Rainbow trout as a reward for his journey.

The best fishing is at the northern end, where the Dobson and Hopkins rivers combine to spill cold mountain water into the lake. Bad weather in the region quickly colours the water at this end of the lake, but when the rivers are clear, fishing near the river mouth is exciting.

The road access up to this area makes for easy boating. Launching facilities are on the south side. Trolling is popular.

Significant weedbeds near the top of the lake encourage good size Rainbow and Brown trout. Bubble and lure fishing is common in this area, and generally productive.

Shore anglers are advised to turn off State Highway No. 8 at Twizel, and to fish the deep water beneath Ben Ohau mountain, or the area adjacent to Darey stream.

One could profitably continue up the Dobson river while on this side of the lake.

* * * * * *

If it's hot . . . fish deep. If it's cold . . . fish shallow.

Lake Middleton

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: Motorboats permitted, but fishing from an unanchored boat is prohibited, as is trolling. 10 Acclimatised fish, of which no more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Wet Fly: Mrs Simpson (red) or Red Spinner.
Favoured Hardware: Toby (black) or Daffy (black).
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

Adjacent to Lake Ohau, and seperated only by a shingle bar on which the access road runs, Lake Middleton is a popular caravan area during summer holidays. For this reason, the lake is more popular with bathers than anglers, with competition from water skiers making the area both noisey and congested.

Evening fishing for trout is pleasant outside the holiday periods, but not a match for the adjacent water of Lake Ohau.

Fly should be considerably smaller than that used in Lake Ohau.

Dobson River

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Love's Lure.
Favoured Lure: Hope's Dark or Black Phantom.
Favoured Hardware: Toby (black) or Slice (black).
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

The loose shingle bottom makes wading difficult in places, but negotiable with care.

A dark ticer or dark lure is often required to fish the coloured water frequently encountered during the summer months, when mountain thaw effects many of the back country rivers. When the water is clear however, feeding trout make great sport on the dry fly. Try a small Black Gnat, or Love's Lure.

Access upsteam quickly becomes restricted to either walking traffic or jet boats. Sturdy footware is essential if one contemplates much walking in this country.

Temple Stream

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Stonefly Nymph.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Tipped Governor or Red Spinner.
Favoured Hardware: Small Black Daffy or Black Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

It takes a bit of walking, but early in the season Temple stream is worth a few hours fishing if one is prepared to ignore the lower 1km. It is not the most impressive looking water, but it regularly returns good fish. The Brown trout are active, and should be treated with a light touch.

Hopkins River

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Stonefly Nymph.
Favoured Wet Fly: Hope's Dark or Hare's Ear.
Favoured Hardware: Small Black Slice or Daffy (black).
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

The Hopkins river is less attractive to serious anglers, as the few holding pools are not particularly well stocked with trout. The junction of the Hopkins and Dobson rivers signifies the start of better fishing, and much of the 8km stretch from here to the head of Lake Ohau is excellent river fishing.

Omarama Stream

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Peveril o' the Peak or Greenwell's Light.
Favoured Wet Fly: Peveril o' the Peak or Pheasant Tail Nymph.
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Glimmy or Chrome Redfin.
Favoured Line Strength: .9kg.

Looking insignificant beside the Ahuriri river, the Omarama stream provides good sport in early season. It is well stocked with Brown trout, and is popular with campers at Omarama. The stream is particularly popular in the area directly behind the camping ground, but visitors would improve their catch by fishing nearer the junction with the Ahuriri river.

Ahuriri River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 12-25 cumecs.
Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: Fishing in water above junction with Longslip stream prohibited until 3rd December. 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Greenwell's Glory or Dad's Favourite.
Favoured Wet Fly: Coch-y-Bondhy or Hare's Ear.
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Red Fin or Black Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

The Ahuriri river originates in the steep snow covered mountains behind Ohau Ski field, and although not a roaring torrent, cascades through delightful scenery before emptying into the western arm of Lake Benmore.

The river is divided into two sections as far as the Acclimatisation Society is concerned, with the lower section, (from river mouth to Longslip Creek), opening the first Saturday in November. The water above this section is not open for fishing until the first Saturday in December.

The lower section is the more popular, with local anglers preferring the deep runs and pools that produce both Brown and Rainbow trout in good size and fighting condition. The water below the road bridge on State Highway No. 8 is sometimes popular with jet boaters, although few venture past the Sugar Lump hills, where the river takes an abrupt turn to flow the final couple of kilometres to the lake. It is this stretch of water that is most popular with threadline anglers after a fresh in the river. A small black ticer cast into the clearing water often rewards the angler with a nice Brown trout.

Lure anglers catch large numbers of trout in this water, but it is the dry fly angler that gets the most sport during the summer months. Early evening fishing is excellent on this largely unbraided water, where the grass banks, willow trees, and occasional rock outcrop delivers grasshoppers and the like to the waiting trout. It is the fast water that produces the liveliest fish, and along the deep edge, one might well bag a nice Rainbow trout.

Road access is difficult in places, but rough tracks across farmland will take the angler closer to the lower reaches of the river. Access to the river mouth is easiest from State Highway No. 83 (near the head of the lake), while access to the water near State Highway No. 8 bridge is best accessed from tracks down the Twizel side.

The angler following State Highway No. 8 south through Omarama, will be within a few paces of the river for quite some distance. Branch off this highway as the road starts to climb to the Lindis Pass, and take the shingle road which follows the river upstream. Here, in the stoney riverbed below the Ahuriri Valley, the water alternates through deep pools and long ripples.

In early morning, or late afternoon, the ripples hold good trout. They are usually found on the downstream side of the larger boulders, along the waters edge.

A gentle cast to the top side of the boulder will allow the fly of nymph to float back to any waiting trout. Start at the bottom of the ripple, working your way upstream from boulder to boulder.

In say 30cm water, the trout has excellent vision of any movement on the bank. Care is needed to stalk from behind.

Once the near side of the water has been covered approx 10-12 metres, try a cast to any significant current over mid-stream boulders. Ahuriri trout get most of their feed from such places. Don't forget the far edge. I recall taking three nice Rainbows in less than 30 minutes by casting a small wet fly on to the shingle on the far side. The current in midstream bellied my line, pulling the fly into the water and along the far bank before starting across the current. It never got past the first few boulders. Three 1½kg fish were beached in quick succession.

It is the deeper pool that fishes hard in this river. In places the pools are surrounded by high banks etc., and it is essential to get the fly down quickly to bottom feeding trout. The trick is to use a nymph or small lure on a fast sinking line, and bring it quickly downstream through the trout's beat. It pays to use a longer than usual leader when fishing directly upstream, as this reduces the chance of 'lining' the trout.

* * * * * *

An angler 'with no time to waste' probably scares more fish than he will ever catch.

Further upstream, the Ahuriri river opens out into the valley of the same name, and few anglers would not agree it has a charm unlike any other. The mountain backdrop; the peace and solitude; the clear sweet air; all combine to make an angler's paradise!

It is upstream from here that expert anglers are most likely to catch a trophy fish, with 4kg examples being unexceptional. Last season saw one of 6kg landed, and there are more where that came from.

The clear open banks on much of this river, are ideal for the novice fly caster, providing unrestricted back-casting, while the clear shingle bottom in the more braided areas, offers an excellent opportunity to present a Peveril-of-the-Peak, or Red Spinner to a waiting trout.

Like the Rakaia river, the Ahuriri river provides a home for the Wry Billed Plover. This is possibly the southernmost habitat for the rare bird, and conservationists are rightly concerned for its future.

This river also has the distinction of having the rare Black Stilt in residence, but regretably they number only a few pair, and face extinction unless steps are quickly taken to protect their environment.

Ahuriri Arm (Lake Benmore)

Open Season: 1st October to 31st August.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: Motorboat permitted, but trolling prohibited in boat harbours or within 200m of shore anglers. 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Black Palmer.
Favoured Lure: Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Mrs Simpson (red)..
Favoured Hardware: Black Zed Spinner or Black Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

Known the country over for its excellent trout fishing, this arm of Lake Benmore is more accessible than Haldon Arm, in that it is adjacent to a well travelled highway along its southern adge, making access possible within moments.

Boat anglers can launch at the Sailors Cutting facilities, and will usually get the best fishing off the mouth of the Ahuriri river. A small black toby has always been the best hardware to attract Brown trout in these waters, or a small chrome or bronze toby, if one is fishing for Rainbow trout.

Dry fly anglers have first class fishing in the shallows at the head of the lake, and should continue Polaroiding for a short distance down the far edge.

The high bank along this edge makes spotting easy and when a good hatch is 'on', this area is hard to beat.

Good dry fly fishing is also available anywhere along the edge adjacent to the highway, where the willow trees and niggerheads provide excellent cover for cruising trout. Polaroiding is essential.

Wet fly or threadline anglers can find good sport in this area, but usually get better results fishing the current at the Ahuriri river mouth or fishing the mouth of the Otamatapaio stream. To successfully fish the Ahuriri river mouth with a wet fly requires some wading on the shingle/mud fans that disperse into the lake, placing the fly or lure into the moving water and allowing it to swing out into the lake and around into the shallows. This covers feeding trout, and cruising fish that leave the current to investigate a slow retrieve just off the main flow.

At the mouth of the Otamatapaio stream, the water tends to be clearer, and anglers can safely wade a few metres off shore along a good boulder ridge. To the left of the ridge the water deepens. One can often raise a Rainbow trout, but take care to avoid the submerged willows that once followed this stream into the old Ahuriri river bed. The first willow is about maximum casting distance off shore, but well within the first run of a good Rainbow trout.

To the right of the wading angler the water within casting distance is not much more than a metre deep, and covers a silt bottom that attracts Brown trout. At night, I find the Browns cruise across the silt bottom and frequently swing back towards the river mouth, following the deeper trench to the angler's left. For this reason, it pays to fish alternate sides, with an extra cast or two into the slack water against the lake edge on ones left. This means casting back towards the bank, and across the inflowing current. The current will carry the fly from the slack water, and transport it out into the lake, in a wide arc around the angler. At the end of its travel, the fly will be near the first submerged willow. Try this cast a few times, varying the retrieve speed. If there were only one spot in the lake for a lure angler to fish, this would be the most productive.

Daylight fishing in this area is reasonable, although dry fly anglers will benefit from moving about 1km either up or down the lake edge. Natural inlets, well grassed and often with high grass that enables one to stalk easily, hide the angler as he progresses towards Sailors Cutting.

Some of the inlets drain paddock moisture to the lake, and Brown trout are caught in these waters; often far upstream from the lake edge. It is Polaroiding country, and best fished when a slight ripple moves across the surface, enabling the angler to wade undetected towards the infrequent willow that grows either in, or beside the lake edge. Here one finds the lazy Brown trout, usually stationed under the overhanging branches, and awaiting any insect that falls. Careful wading to position the angler for an unrestricted cast to the open side of the willow is often rewarded.

The few willows that are offshore present no problem if one remembers to cast on the down-wind side, thereby avoiding a certain snag. However, the best results are gained by placing the lure out past the tree, and retrieving it fast on the upwind side. Miss the tree by a few centimetres, and any lurking Brown trout will be after it like an express train.

If the wind is moderate, one can often place the lure upwind, but with enough belly in the line to carry the lure close past the tree, and through the vision of any lurking trout. But note that a sinking tip line is needed. This will allow the surface floating section of the line to catch the wind and transport the sunken lure down-wind. Watch the far end of the line carefully. It will be seen to move much earlier than one will feel the bite, and because of the drag created by a bellied line, the setting of the hook will be slower than normal. When the line is seen to move roll the wrist and set the hook! To wait the 'feel' is too late.

On the south side of the Otamatapaio stream the fishing often produces more Rainbow trout than Brown trout, with the best fishing down near the corner of the lake. Patches of weed sometimes encroach toward the beach, and fly anglers that can cast near it will find the Rainbows good value. Again, it is Polaroiding country, and one should expect the cheeky Brown trout to cruise close to the shore. If it's hot and sunny, try casting into the shade beneath the willow trees that dot this edge of the lake. The shallow water possibly heats up more than other parts of the lake, and it may be for this reason that trout seem to favour the shady areas during mid-summer.

A visiting angler needs boat transport to effectively fish the deep water between Sailors Cutting and the Benmore Dam. This water needs a different fishing

technique. It is sunken lure fishing, with the lure down as deep as possible. Much of the water through the gorge is too deep for trolling, as the line would swing towards the surface as the boat moves along. Therefore the only effective fishing is from a stationary boat, with the line left to sink for several minutes before starting a slow, but jerking retrieve.

Just remember the line is hanging straight down, and any 'bite' is going to be at the limit of the line's travel, and one should therefore avoid striking hard. It is possible the 'bite' will be a Rainbow trout, and travelling fast. He will hook himself most times. Be prepared to let out line fast, as the deep hooked fish frequently reacts by heading deeper.

Threadlining from the steep hillside adjoining the lake edge is productive if one remembers to let the hardware sink close to the bottom before retrieving.

Lake Aviemore

Open Season: 1st October to 31st August.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: Motorboats permitted, but trolling is prohibited in boat harbours or within 200m of shore anglers. 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Red Spinner or Greenwell's Light.
Favoured Lure: Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Pheasant Tail Nymph.
Favoured Hardware: Black Zed Spinner or Black Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

Swift water immediately below the Benmore Dam is a vital fishery to the overall Lake Aviemore area. Frequent catches are made here, and usually the larger fish are found in the waters between the Benmore Power Station and the back of the DB Lake Aviemore Hotel.

Fishing from the river bank is easy, access and good landing places are available for those successful anglers that cast into the fast water. Most success follows anglers fishing a small ticer, cast upstream, and allowed to follow the flow deep down. There are a lot of wasted casts in this water, but when a fish takes, it is with fighting fury enriched by the water current. A good backing is essential on all fly lines, and threadliners will want a reasonable spool to control the first vicious run. In this water, a 3.5kg line is about minimum standard.

Road access to Lake Aviemore is excellent, and totally surrounds the lake. One is never more than a few metres from the lake edge.

Both Brown and Rainbow trout frequent the waters off the mouth of the Otematata river and wading will get the angler out to the western side of the outflow. Fishing the eastern side of the outflow is easier, but often occupied by worm fishermen. However, some of the deeper holes off the river mouth are best fished from the west side, and one should be aware that most hooked fish will try and return to the deeper lake water via the channel near the east bank . . . or in other words, through the maze of worm lines. A little heavier pressure is sometimes needed to turn the trout before east meets west, and the inevitable tangle takes place.

Down-lake, the edge is popular with threadliners and fly anglers alike, and at Parson's Rock the cruising lake trout become more evident. From here to the Aviemore Dam the lake edges fishes reasonably well, but is almost seasonal in that trout vary their location from time to time. Finding their current location is trial and error fishing, but once found, is most rewarding.

On the other side of the lake, the fishing continues downstream from beneath the Benmore Dam, and threadliners often catch Rainbow trout in the fast water along this bank. Fly anglers might fish the hatch in the quiet water behind projecting rocks and trees, but generally the water is more productive to threadline anglers.

The many bays around the back of this lake provide excellent shore or boat fishing, and all kinds of angling is popular. But it is along the deep water upstream of the Aviemore Dam that one would expect the better sport.

Two small bridges span streams that inflow to this edge of Lake Aviemore. Deep stream, the more northerly of the two, is a valuable hatchery for trout, and anglers fishing the lake off this stream will frequently find good trout are taken deep. The lake edge is steep. It is usual to hook trout deep, but the Rainbows immediately rise to the surface and attempt to throw the hook.

Otematata River

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: 5 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Peveril o' the Peak or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Tipped Governor or Pheasant Tail Nymph.
Favoured Hardware: Small Black Slice or Copper Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg.

Easily misjudged as one crosses the road bridge, the Otematata river either appears to flow strong and coloured, or simply as a thin trickle.

There is not much the angler can do when the river is coloured, but consider the middle and upper reaches of this water in times of low flow, or during the early season, when the river is usually at its best. Permission will be required to pass through the locked gates on the dry weather track through Otematata Station, and the trip should not be considered unless one has a four-wheel drive vehicle. But for those anglers lucky enough to have the conveyance, the fishing is memorable.

If the river is reasonably swift, try a small Mrs Simpson (red) or toby.

Deep Stream

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly only.
Restrictions: 5 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Coachman or Peveril o' the Peak.
Favoured Wet Fly: Peveril o' the Peak or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Line Strength: 1.5kg.

Deep stream is late opening water, and therefore not to be fished before the first Saturday in November. It is however well worth waiting for. The climb over adjacent hills was once strenuous, not to mention dangerous, but, once in there. an enthusiast would drool over the fishing. The deep, clear water magnifies the trout, and looking down from a projecting rock, one can be forgiven for considering it 'eldorado'. Unfortunately, the trout are not very considerate. They cruise in and out of the flourishing bottom weed, and are content to stay deep.

Today a four-wheel drive vehicle track provides easier access, and a recently completed walkway has been constructed to make access ever easier.

In mid-summer, an occasional hatch will bring these trout to the surface, but it always seems to happen 'on the other side'. Fishing from a small boat is best.

Lake Waitaki

Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: Motorboats permitted, but trolling is prohibited within 200m of shore anglers. Fishing in water adjacent to spawning channel below Lake Aviemore prohibited. 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Black Gnat or Coch-y-Bondhu.
Favoured Lure: Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Parson's Glory.
Favoured Hardware: Black Glimmy or Black Zed Spinner.
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

The alternative lake! When the wind spoils Lake Aviemore, it is quite possible that conditions on Lake Waitaki are favourable. It is therefore a popular lake with local anglers who first try Lake Aviemore, and progress down the valley if conditions deteriorate.

Edge fishing is popular, particularly along the road side, with cruising trout frequently taken in the shallow water. The deep water along the back edge of the lake produces fewer trout, but often the bigger ones come from boat anglers trolling this area with a black glimmy or Zed spinner.

Road access is restricted to one side of the lake, although anglers can cross the Aviemore Dam to reach sheltered campsites on the far side. The fast flowing water near the campsites is popular with threadline anglers, while fly anglers tend to fish the water downstream and at the head of the lake.

Well stocked with Rainbow and Brown trout, and some Sockeye salmon, this lake is popular both early morning and late evening in mid summer. Nymph or fly anglers are usually successful at this time.

The oldest of the Hydro Electric lakes on the Waitaki river system, it is sometimes overlooked by anglers hurrying to other prime spots inland. This can be a mistake!

Maerewhenua River

Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly only.
Restrictions: Salmon fishing prohibited. 5 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Peveril o' the Peak or Greenwell's Light.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Spinner or Pheasant Tail Nymph.
Favoured Line Strength: .9kg.

Joining the Waitaki river just below Duntroon, the Maerewhenua river presents a gravel bed that is well known for its spawning qualities. It is an early season river, with a dry stream bed in parts as the season progresses.

Upstream pools are fishable during mid-summer, but the better fishing is past by this time. Because of the clear water, light line and small flies are suggested.

* * * * * *

Trolling with a long line gets it down further, but a more effective method is to troll slower, leaving a shorter line out the back, where it jostles with the currents made by the propeller. If the lure needs to be deeper, crimp a small weight about 2 metres above the lure.

Looking thin at the end of last season, the Hakataramea river still held good stocks of trout. Always popular, this 'fly only' water produces good bags in the early season or mid summers evening.

Hakataramea River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 1-2 cumecs.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly only.
Restrictions: Salmon fishing is prohibited. 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Greenwell's Glory or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Wet Fly: Mrs Simpson (red) or Pheasant Tail Nymph.
Favoured Line Strength: 1kg.

This famous gin-clear fishery is at its best from opening through to early in the new year, when low flows affect fishing pleasure.

A nymph anglers playground, this water regularly produces excellent trout that also rise successfully to the carefully presented dry fly. Light tackle is essential, and careful stalking critical during daylight hours.

Access to the river is from either side, but better access upstream is from the Hakataramea Pass road on the west side of the river.

Extremely popular with caravaners visiting the area for a few days, the Hakataramea river gets crowded over the Christmas holidays, and later in the season, salmon anglers will visit the river for trout fishing in the evening, and then salmon fishing below the junction with the Waitaki river during early morning or daylight hours.

Waitaki River

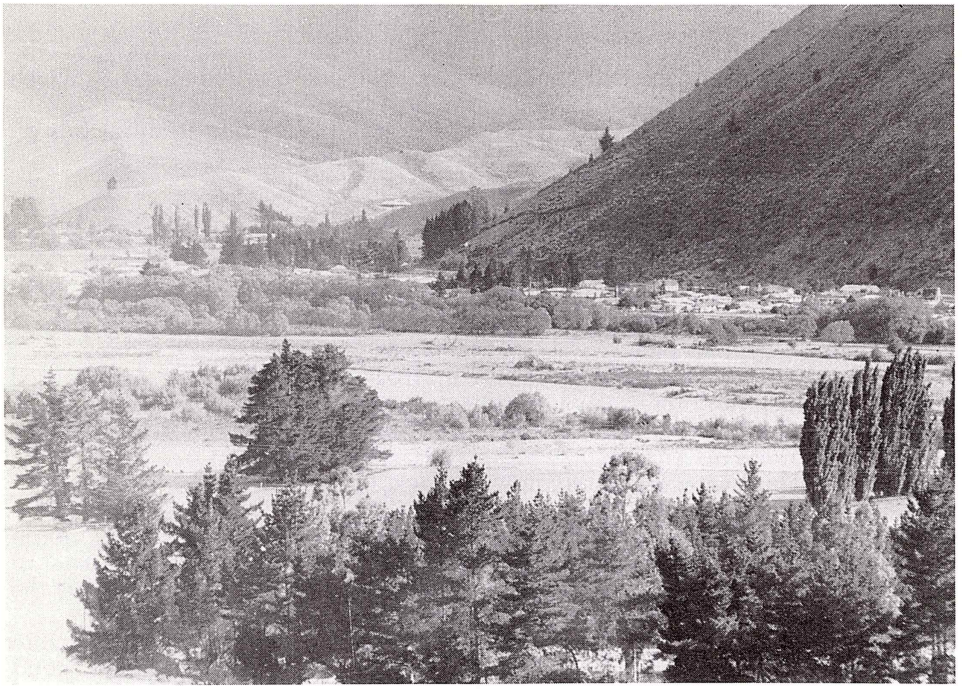
Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 240-340 cumecs.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Jet boat launching facilities: Yes.
Lower Reaches:
Favoured Lure: Grey Ghost or Ginger Mick.
Favoured Salmon Hardware: Small Colorado or Chrome Zed Spinner.
Favoured Line Strength: 3.5kg (trout). 11kg (salmon).
Upstream:
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Greenwell's Glory.
Favoured Wet Fly: Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Hairy Dog (red).
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Glimmy or Chrome Zed Spinner.
Favoured Line Strength: 3.5kg (trout). 11kg (salmon).

The largest controlled river in the area, the Waitaki river is famous for trout and more particularly salmon fishing. In 1901, when the first salmon were released in this area, the river was an excellent waterway for trout anglers. However, the mainstream flow depended on conditions far back in the mountains, and it carried much glacial silt from the Mount Cook area. Trout abounded in the side braids, where the silt dispersed fastest.

More recently, the river has been harnassed into successive lakes, and the glacial silt is now filtered by the ponding action of these lakes. This leaves the Waitaki river as a well controlled waterway, clear and fishable when often other rivers are in 'colour'. Trout fishing has distributed into both main and side streams, although some water is only reachable by jet boat or hard walking.

Salmon return annually to this constant waterway. The most popular location for fishing is at the rivermouth or lagoon, where shore based anglers compete with boat anglers anchored above the gut. The mouth changes regularly, and one often requires a small boat to cross the lagoon. However, the formation of a lagoon usually provides a considerable length of water for shore anglers to fish immediately above the mouth. Many of the better catches are made here. Lagoon fishing is popular with anglers unprepared to face the surf, and aware that most salmon enter the lagoon to play or rest before either returning to the surf or departing upstream to spawn.

Sea-run trout are often caught at the Waitaki river mouth during the early season. Most are taken on a large lure, such as the Silver Doctor or Grey Ghost, fished deep in the fast river water. Natural bait, such as the silvery, is excellent for trout anglers if their visit coincides with smelt in the river, but whether using silvery or lure, the angler can expect some lively action from the furious fighting Kahawai that often invade the river mouth.



The Waitaki river narrows near Kurow, but the scenery is undeminished as tall poplars and willow trees frame the rolling countryside. Kurow is a popular stopping place for anglers, with the water adjacent to the township well known for excellent salmon catches.

Demonstration Channels (Waitaki River)

Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: Special licence (available on site, at no charge).
Favoured Dry Fly: Greenwell's Glory or Blue Dun.
Favoured Wet Fly: Mrs Simpson (yellow) or Red Spinner.
Favoured Hardware: Chrome Glimmy or Bronze Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 1-3kg.

Within the Waitaki river bed, a series of Demonstration channels have been constructed to provide ongoing information for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A special licence is required, but is available on site at no charge. The completed licence MUST be deposited in the reception box before the angler leaves the river.

Each channel is identified by a cumec rating, and anglers can ascertain for themselves the flow they prefer. Anglers, as well as Ministry officials, will quickly evaluate the flow necessary to provide good recreational fishing in the river, and in turn provide a basis for future consideration when the proposed Waitaki river hydro development scheme procedes.

It might be coincidental, but some of last season's better fishing was in the area within the Demonstration Channels or immediately downstream, suggesting the trout population thrived in such conditions. But the question remains . . . which channel is the most satisfactory fishery in the long term?

The channels are good fishing, but don't forget to file the returns in the box on site.

Waihao River

Mid-Summer Flow: Approx .7 cumec.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Any legal bait between sea and main road bridges.
Restrictions: Artificial bait only upstream from Forks bridge. 10 Acclimatised fish, of which not more than 4 may be salmon. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Greenwell's Glory.
Favoured Wet Fly: Thompson's Moth or Hardy's Favourite.
Favoured Hardware: Black Glimmy or Black Toby.
Favoured Line Strength: 1.3kg.

Fishing the tidal water below Bradshaws bridge depends heavily on river mouth conditions. When the mouth is open, anglers can expect some good sea-run trout to take a large lure such as the Hopes Silvery, or Yellow Dorothy. But perhaps the better results come from the worm or bully.

Upstream, the water drys during summer, and anglers are restricted to the thin flow above Wains Crossing. The river thickens above Waihao Forks, and is good dry fly water during early morning or late afternoon. It becomes a safe natural habitat for trout as anglers are restricted access by the many willow trees and scrub outbreaks. It is here that one can expect to get excellent fishing, providing the hooked trout avoids the scrub covered bank and trees. It is a challenge!

Pareora River

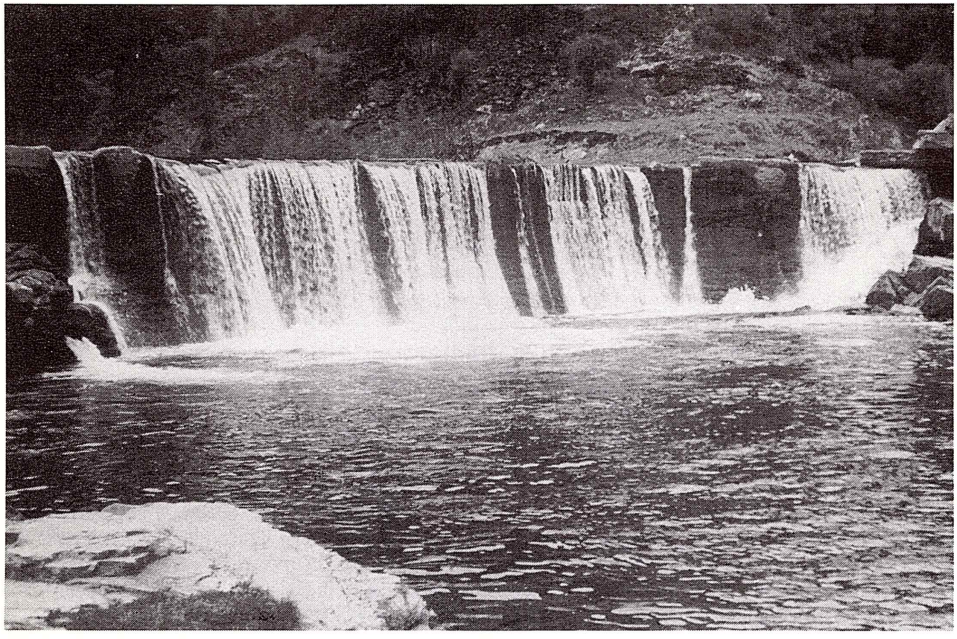
Mid-Summer Flow: Approx 1 cumec.
Open Season: 1st October to 30th April.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: 10 trout. 25cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Blue Dun or Coch-y-bondhu.
Favoured Wet Fly: Hare's Ear or Red Spinner.
Favoured Hardware: Silver Ticer (day) or Black Toby (night).
Favoured Line Strength: .9kg.

One of the first rivers to produce good trout early in the season, the Pareora river is heavily fished by local anglers at weekends or holidays.

The prime water is usually in or near the gorge, and trout of 1-2½kg are taken by the more skillfull angler during the early season.

Later in the year, the water dries in the middle reaches. limiting anglers to the gorge area, or the lagoon immediately above the river mouth. The warmer water during the mid-summmer, helps create some excellent hatches, and anglers out on such evenings usually have quite a tale to tell on their return.

Pools above the dam are productive, and October/November fishing is well worth the effort. But although some good trout are taken upstream, the majority are small, and most likely would be returned to the water.



The old Pareora Dam oxegenates the inflowing water as it drops into the deep pool at the downstream side. Early in the season, good trout are usually taken in this, or one of the nearby pools.

Access is by road from either side, until one reaches the gorge area, where an excellent road system follows the southern bank of the river. Roadside parking is difficult in this hilly area, and can be a danger to other traffic. The better alternative is to park the car at Evans Crossing, and walk upstream towards the old damsite, watching for the fine trout that inhabit limestone banks where the river tightens into narrow, deep bends.

A small silver ticer sometimes attracts trout during daylight hours early in the season, or one might try a small black toby after dark. But once a hatch is observed, a size 16 Blue Dunn is almost certain to raise a fish. At the approach of darkness, I would expect to change to a Coch-y-Bondhu size 14, and fish the ripples at the tail of each hole, before proceding to the eye of the pool or to where overhanging branches meet the water surface.

Fish light, as these trout scare easily. Change to a larger size fly as darkness increases.

Lakes Roundabout and Spider

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly only.
Restrictions: No boat fishing permitted. 6 trout. 30cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Peveril o' the Peak or Coch-y-Bondhu.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Spinner or Hare's Ear.
Favoured Line Strength: 1.5kg.

Stradling the access road into Lakes Camp and Clearwater are the well known but comparatively little fished lakes called Roundabout and Spider. Many are the

tales about fish taken from Lake Spider, and evidence is not lacking either. The key to identifying appropriate access to this hidden lake is only that it is roughly opposite the access track to Lakes Roundabout and Emma.

Lake Roundabout is a small lake by comparison with its close neighbour (Lake Emma), but somewhat larger than Spider. Because of its proximity to Lake Emma, it is more favoured as a stop-off point in the walk in from the road.

Lake Emma

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: No boat fishing permitted. 6 trout. 30cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Love's Lure or Black Gnat.
Favoured Wet Fly: Mrs Simpson (red) or Red Spinner.
Favoured Hardware: Bronze Redfin or Copper Daffy.
Favoured Line Strength: 1.5kg.

Lake Emma is widely known as 'the training pool', but anglers hooking into a 2 or 2½kg Brown trout will soon realise the pleasures of light line fishing. Broadly speaking this lake is more productive than others in the district, but sometimes overlooked because the water is largely hidden from the road. The access track is reasonable, but it is only a short walk if one prefers to leave the car at the roadside.

The best fishing is usually around the back of the lake, but polaroiding is popular along the roadside edge. Unfortunately there is little ground cover along this edge, and trout are easily frightened by anglers that stand proud against the skyline.

Lake Denny

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly only.
Restrictions: No boat fishing permitted. 6 trout. 30cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Coch-y-Bondhu or Black Gnat.
Favoured Wet Fly: Hope's Dark or Mrs Simpson Red.
Favoured Line Strength: 1.5kg.

Further down the valley, Lake Denny nestles in peaceful seclusion, and is seldom fished. Access from the road is via a rough 8km long track that originates near Hakatere Corner, and passes some distance from the lake edge.

Good fish have been taken over the years, but only the committed angler makes the journey, which is one of the reasons why good catches are not widely announced, as it is usually the same few that fish the water with regularity.

Lake Clearwater

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly only.
Restrictions: 6 trout. 30cm minimum length. Fishing from anchored boat permitted, but must be 70 metres from shore or island.
Favoured Dry Fly: Love's Lure or Coch-y-Bondhu.
Favoured Lure: Hamill's Killer or Mrs Simpson (green).

'A helping hand to land the trout.' Lake Clearwater gives up one of its prime trout to Mr Bruce Shipman (right) as Mr Don Smith assists with the net.

Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

Living up to its name, this fly only water is crystal clear throughout the season, and is popular with anglers desiring peace and quiet. Row boats are not particularly popular, as most anglers prefer to fish the edge from shore. Situated on the far (north) side of the lake is an island. Boat fishing is essential if one wants to fish near it, otherwise one would drive the 2km to the head of the lake, and walk across the swamp to the excellent water along the northwest edge.

This edge provides moderate shelter from the unpopular nor'west wind that sometimes thrashes the lake, and many a good trout has been taken in the sheltered water, while anglers further down the lake have been driven off by unfavourable conditions. Having said that however, one must admit that Lake Clearwater fishes best with a slight ripple on the surface. When it is glassy, the fishing is usually slow. A slight ripple makes the back edge of the lake more attractive and worthy of the walk, with a lot of productive water within easy casting distance of the angler prepared to wade.

Perhaps more importantly, the light nor'west breeze during summer, often attracts trout close to the few willow trees along the shore, and a Hamill's Killer

fished slowly beneath overhanging branches is certain to attract cruising Brown trout.

If the trout are feeding on the surface, a Love's Lure is another good fly to attract attention . . . particularly in mid-summer, but also consider a Coch-y-Bondhu (size 10 or 12) if there is a ripple.

Lake Camp

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 31st May.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: 6 trout. 30cm minimum length. No boat fishing permitted.
Trailer-boat launching facilities: Yes.
Favoured Dry Fly: Coch-y-Bondhu or Black Gnat.
Favoured Lure: Hairy Dog (red) or Mrs Simpson (red).
Favoured Hardware: Redfin (silver) or Toby (black).
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.

Now the recognised power boat area in Mid Canterbury, Lake Camp echoes to the sound of screaming motors, and picnic parties during mid-summer.

Some good Rainbow trout have been taken in this small lake, but mainly by fishing slow and deep. It is suggested that weekends be avoided if one wants any degree of solitude.

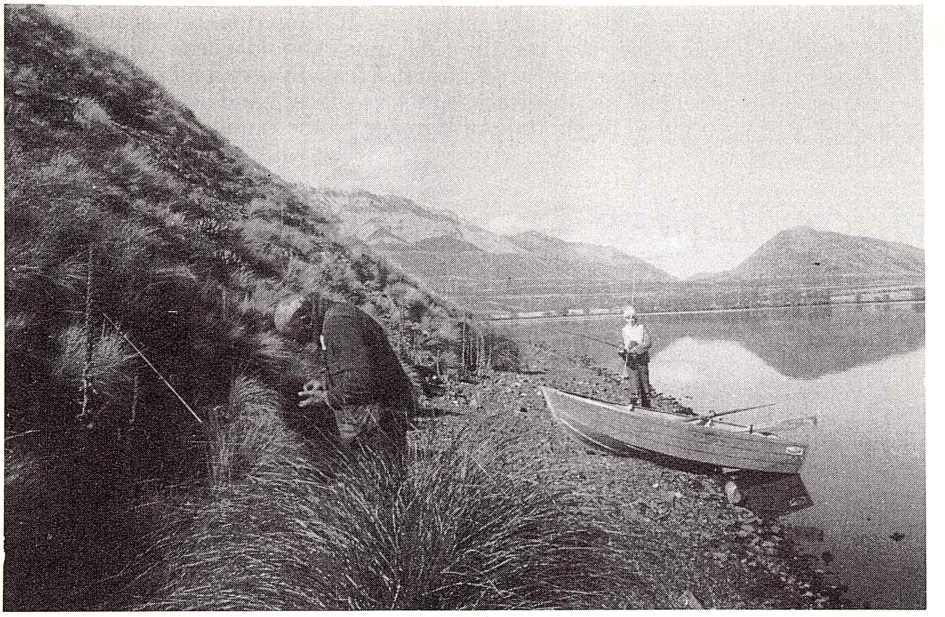
Lake Emily

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial fly only.
Restrictions: No boat fishing permitted. 6 trout. 30cm minimum length.
Favoured Dry Fly: Greenwell's Glory or Black Gnat.
Favoured Wet Fly: Red Spinner or Red Tipped Governor.
Favoured Line Strength: 1.5kg.

Lake Emily is well off the road, and access is by foot or four-wheel-drive vehicle. The fishing is not spectacular, although conditions are adequate. It is more likely the angler will hook Fontinalis (Brook trout) than trout, but that should not discourage one from investigating the water.

Lake Heron

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Any legal bait.
Restrictions: Only boats propelled solely by oars or paddles allowed on lake. Fishing from anchored boat permitted. 14 Acclimatised fish in all, of which not more than 6 may be trout. 30cm minimum length (trout), 25cm minimum length (salmon).
Favoured Dry Fly: Love's Lure or Black Spinner.
Favoured Lure: Hamill's Killer or Hope's Dark.
Favoured Hardware: Black Daffy or Black Zed Spinner.
Favoured Line Strength: 2.5kg.



Well back from the water to avoid scaring trout, the angler changes tackle in the shelter of Mt. Sugarloaf. The calm water of Harrison's Bight make this a 'dry fly' day.

Situated at the 'end of the road', Lake Heron is sometimes avoided by those not familiar with the fighting spirit of fish that inhabit this water.

Rainbow trout average about 2kg, while Brown trout average about 2½kg. Both are found in good numbers, and it is not unusual to get them up to 3½kg.

Best fishing is along the swamp, opposite where the lake begins to narrow before passing under Mt. Sugarloaf to exit at the outlet stream. Both wet and dry anglers can enjoy excellent sport during mid-summer, with the most favourable time being first light. The Brown trout feed close to shore, and by careful spotting the angler can cast to cruising or rising fish. If casting to a fish, take care to avoid 'lining' the quarry, and thereby scaring him away. It is more likely the first light angler will cast on to the observed beat of a trout, and await the next pass before twitching the sunken lure. Don't be too surprised if the Brown trout follows the lure for some distance before taking. Trout in this lake don't scare quite as easy as in other areas, and they sometimes take their time about accepting the lure, indicating perhaps their abundant supply of feed on the lake bed.

Harder to get to, but equally exciting is the water in Harrison's Bight. Fed by a cool mountain stream, Harrison's Bight extends almost 2km towards the main lake. The deep water along the northern edge is excellent Rainbow trout country, and spotting is made easy by a steep bank that is part of Mt. Sugarloaf.

The shallow edge along the south side of the Bight is dotted with Raupo, and it is here that one would expect to bag good Brown trout. It is possible to fish most of Harrison's Bight from shore, but some of the better fishing can only be gained by rowing behind the reed beds, and enticing the 'old man' Browns out from cover.

Like all lakes, care must be taken when boating, the nearest road access is several kilometres from Harrison's Bight, and for this reason, rowboat anglers must consider the time they will be out on the lake (at least 1 hour each way), and the effect wind will play in their ability to get safely home. Lake Heron is quickly

whipped by wind, while anglers in the shelter of Mt. Sugarloaf will scarcely feel a breeze. Anglers visiting the lake for the first time, should check with a nearby homestead for directions to a rough access track. This will save a lot of rowing time, but permission is essential, as the track splits in places, and local knowledge is necessary if one is to avoid waste time or damage to the family saloon.

Maori Lakes

Open Season: First Saturday in November to 30th April.
Bait: Artificial bait only.
Restrictions: 5 trout. 30cm minimum length. Fishing from anchored boat permitted.
Favoured Dry Fly: Greenwell's (light) or Twilight Beauty.
Favoured Wet Fly: Hamill's Killer or Mrs Simpson (green).
Favoured Line Strength: 2kg.

At first glance these two waters appear little more than swamp value, but careful rowing can bring the angler within casting range of a rising trout. Remember to put the anchor out before casting!

The shoreline is indistinct because of Raupo outcrops, and casting from shore is limited to very few sites — most of which are only gained after clambering over unstable swamp land.

The boat angler will have to fish shallow because much of the water is only a metre or so above the reed bottom. If one hooks a good size trout in one of the few clear areas, the fight is certain to cease if the trout gains access to the reedbed.

Having said that, one should be reminded that at least one 3kg trout came from here this past season, and many more anglers are now trying this water. A landing net is essential!

The inland lake is generally considered the better for selective fishing, as here the trout grow undisturbed by traffic. The roadside lake is frequently disturbed by passing anglers prepared to have a few casts on the way home. The inland lake is well hidden from view, and involves driving a rough access track that is for most part poorly marked.

* * * * * *

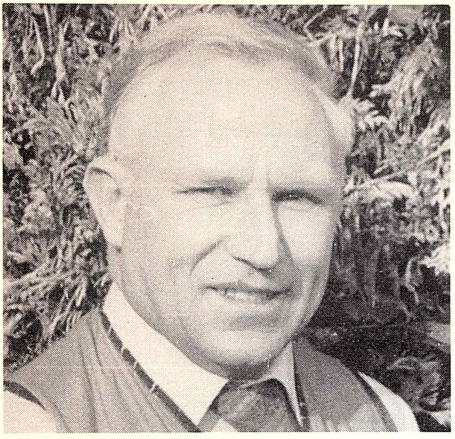
'Bouncing' a fly off the far bank often attracts trout feeding on insects that fall from overhanging grass or trees.

* * * * * *

The difference between crossing a fence with a loaded gun and crossing a fence with rod in hand? One should be 'broken' before crossing, the other could be broken while crossing! Place the rod over the fence first, THEN move along a few paces and climb over. If you 'climb' the fence, cross near a solid post, and repair any damage.

* * * * * *

Have you ever noticed fish break the trace more often when they take a trolled fly some distance from the boat? The long length of flyline in the water creates significant resistance to the strike, and hence the probability of losing fly and fish unless line strength is increased to suit. If you must troll with a long line, increase the line strength by 1kg minimum, and keep the reel brake slack.



As a frequent visitor to the rivers and lakes of the Central South Island since Primary School days, I can attest to the quality of trout and salmon fishing in this area.

In recent times, the camera has been active in recording some of the angling highlights for my 'Fishing with Peter' page which regularly appears in the Timaru Herald during the season.

This booklet has come about as a result of readers' requests, and my observation of the need to remind ourselves of the excellent waters available. The publication's large typeface, concise text and format, is designed for easy inclusion in the angler's bag as comprehensive ready reference material.

This booklet will have served its purpose if it encourages local anglers to fish other waters in the area, or if overseas anglers are encouraged to enjoy this excellent fishery and magnificent scenery.

Peter Shutt

Glossary of terms used in this booklet:

Cumec: Rate of water flow in cubic metres per second.
Lining: Line shadow across fish.
Polaroiding: Polaroid glasses needed.
Trace/leader: The nylon line between the fly and fly-line.
Trolling: Towing a line behind a boat.
Window: Area of view available to a fish (varies with depth).

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Orari River 17
Otematata River 37
Pareora River 42
Pukaki, Lake 29
Rakaia River 11
Rangitata River 15
Roundabout, Lake 43
Spider, Lake 43
Tekapo, Lake 27
Tekapo River 22
Tengawai River 21
Te Moana River 19
Temuka River 19
Waihao River 42
Waihi River 18
Waitaki, Lake 38
Waitaki River 40

Southern Canterbury is undoubtedly a fisherman's paradise. Its many snow-fed rivers are rich in fish, drawing anglers from all over the world.

But finding the right river, knowing where the fish lie and what gear attracts them can be a very time consuming process.

Peter Shutt solves this problem by producing a very readable, objective guide to the region's rivers. The hours of research involved are obvious, for it's extremely thorough and concise.

This is the first book on fishing in southern Canterbury, guaranteed to not only inform but delight fishermen. And it reinforces the fact that along with many scenic, sporting and cultural assets, the region continues to be one of the few remaining fishing meccas in the world.

HELEN M. NEWMAN
South Canterbury Public Relations Officer

Mr Shutt is to be congratulated on the effort and time he has so obviously put into compiling this very valuable and long needed work of documenting the freshwater fishing opportunities so abundant in the area of review.

I would venture to say that, for the very moderate cost involved no angler should be without his or her personal copy.

KEN ANDREWS
South Island Member of
the National Executive of
N.Z. Acclimatisation Societies